Venus Versus Virus

8

Seven Seas

Apocalypse How?

With Sumire in the hands of the evil sorcerer Aion, it's only a matter of time before Aion succeeds in his plan to open the gateway to the "True World" and remake the world in his image. Meanwhile, Lucia and the rest of the Venus Vangard crew have sworn to bring Sumire home, unaware that she has fallen under Aion's dark spell as a willing assistant. To make matters worse, Aion has more than one trick up his sleeve for Lucia, Nahashi and Lola, who will have to confront the demons of their past in order to save the future. Yet with so many dark secrets now coming to light, is their friendship even worth saving?

Find out in the thrilling conclusion to *Venus Versus Virus!*

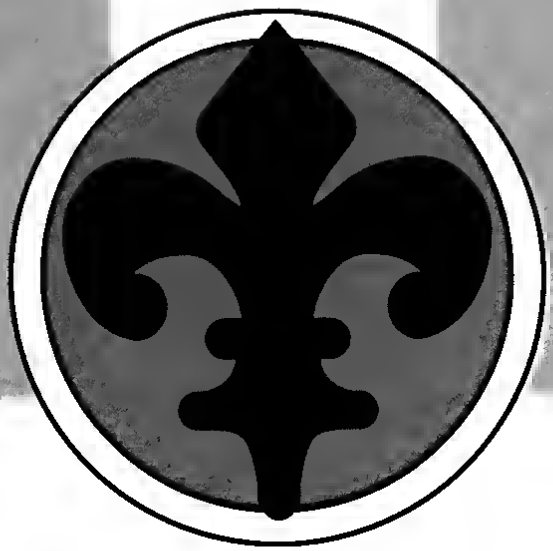
OLDER TEEN (16+)
$10.99 USA
($12.99 CAN)
ISBN 978-1-934876-71-8
51099>
9 781934 876718

MANGA

WWW.GOMANGA.COM

Seven Seas

★ウィーナス ウァーサス ウァイアラス★



VOLUME 8

CONTENTS

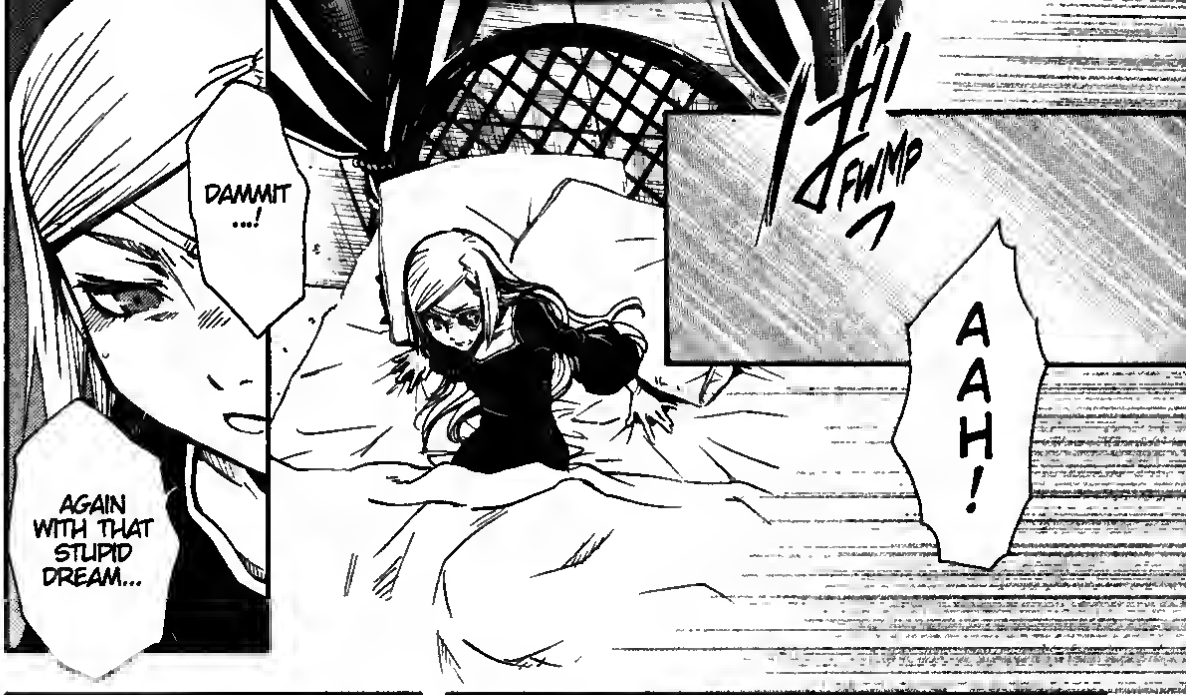
Piece 33:	Black. Vertigo.	003
Piece 34:	Diagrams. Watches.	041
Piece 35:	Narrow. Boundaries.	079
Piece 36:	World. Destruction.	117
Piece 37:	Wishes. Granted.	159

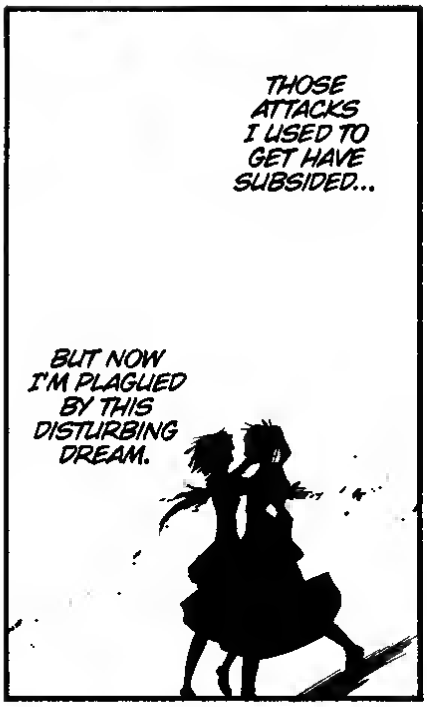
SWIP
GWAK
SKANG
GWAK
FWOO
HFF..
HFF..
!!
GRAAAK!!

SWOOSH
SUMIRE ...?
TD
RUSH

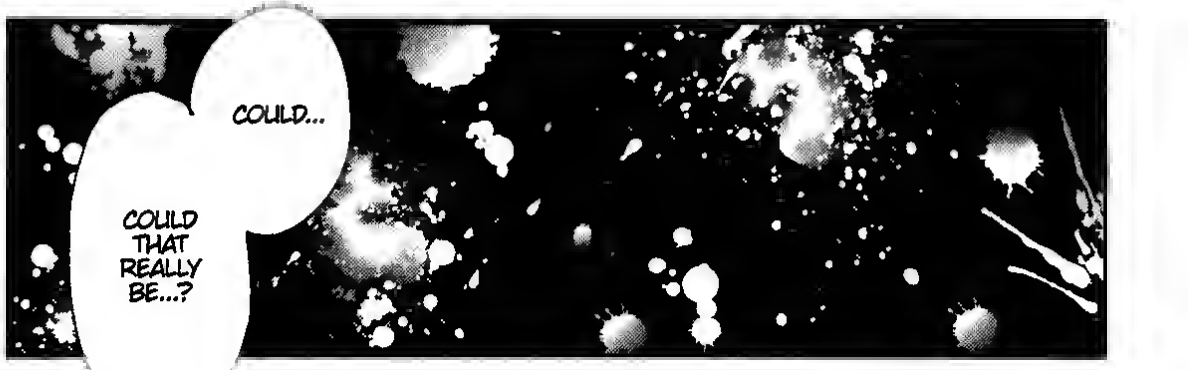
?!
COME, LLICIA-SAN...
LET US BECOME ONE.
THUK

Piece 33 BLACK. VERTIGO.

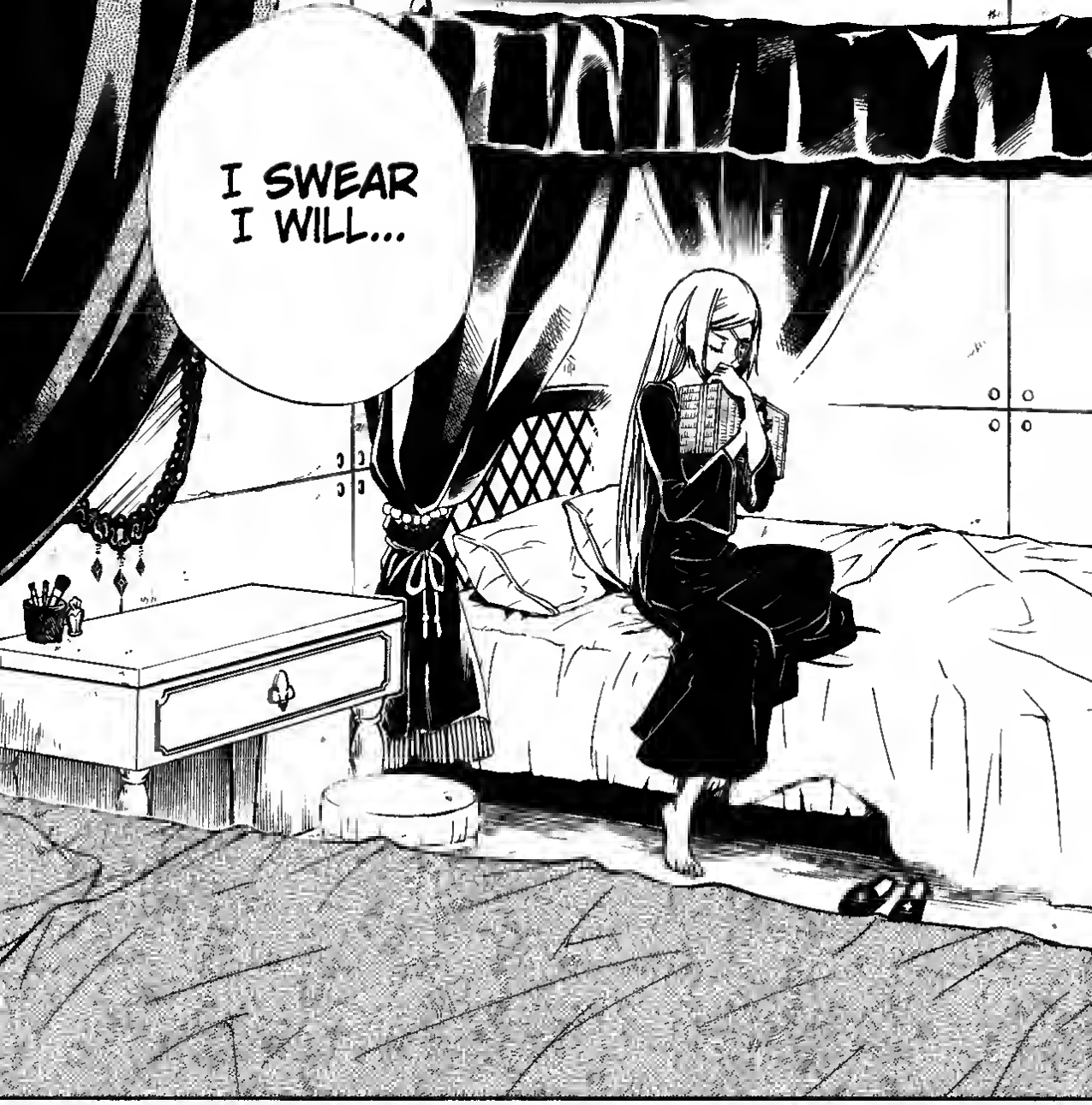

AAH!
FWMP
DAMMIT ...!
AGAIN WITH THAT STUPID DREAM...

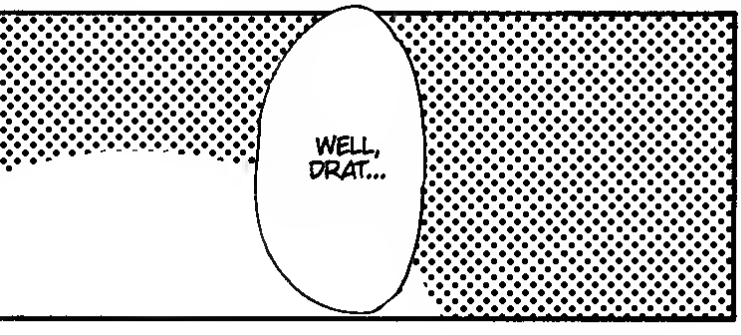

THOSE ATTACKS I USED TO GET HAVE SUBSIDED...
BUT NOW I'M PLAGUED BY THIS DISTURBING DREAM.

SUMIRE...
EVER SINCE YOU LEFT...

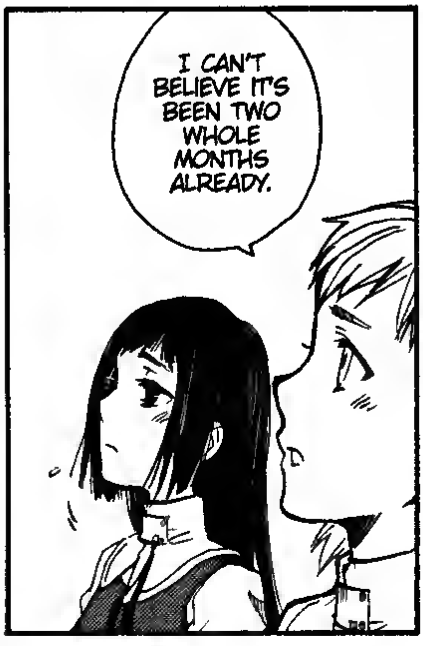

COULD...
COULD THAT REALLY BE...?

I CAN CHANGE THE SAD FUTURE THAT AWAITS YOU.
OUR...
DESTINY ...?
I CAN SAVE YOU...
.....
NO. LIKE HELL I'M GONNA BELIEVE THAT.
GLARE
SHAKE SHAKE
I'LL SAVE YOU, SUMIRE.


I SWEAR I WILL...


WELL, DRAT...

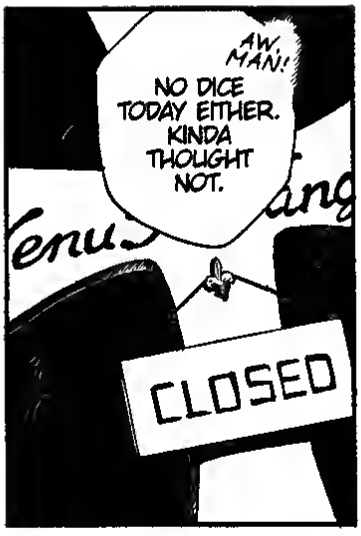
HERE'S LUCIA-SAN'S LITTLE SHOP...
BUT IT'S CLOSED. AGAIN.
Venus Vangard
CLOSED

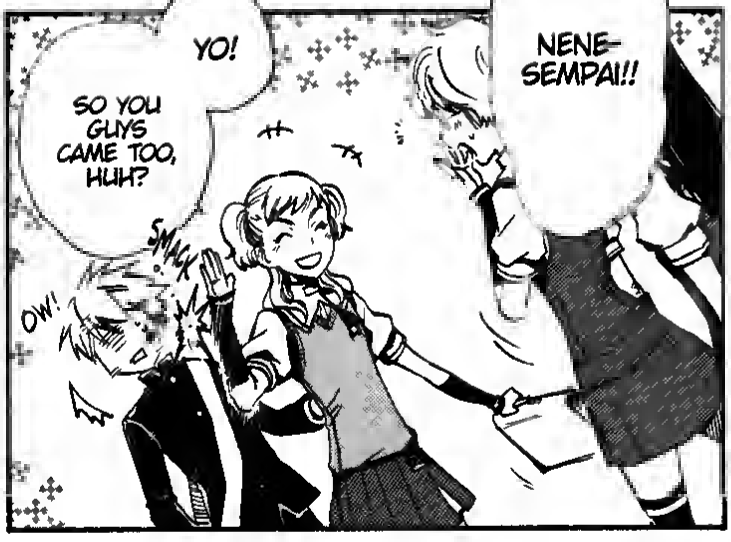

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN TWO WHOLE MONTHS ALREADY.

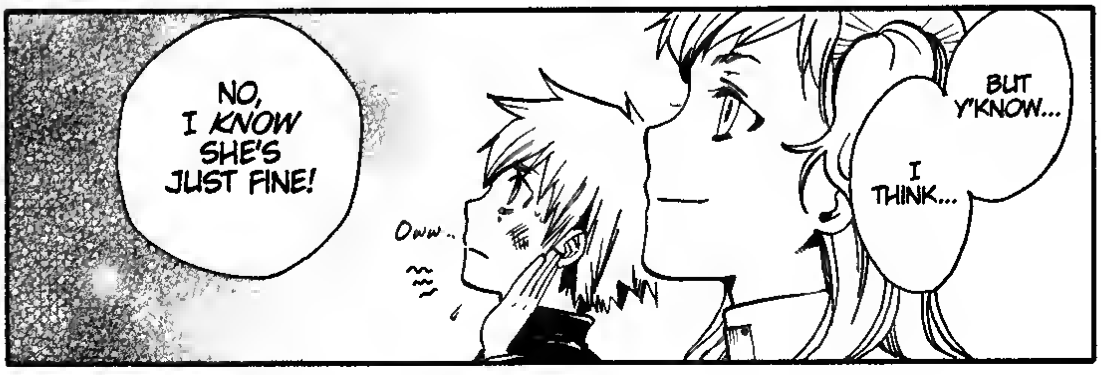
GAWD! SECOND QUARTER'S ALREADY STARTED...
BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF SUMIRE ANYWHERE! WHERE COULD THAT SILLY DITZ BE?!
I MEAN SERIOUSLY! THE GREAT MIKA-SAMA HERSELF IS LOOKING FOR HER TOO! HOW RUDE!

WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?
EVER SINCE THAT TIME SHE STOPPED BY THE DORM, WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER AT ALL.
MUMBLE
SUMIRE...
WILL WE EVER SEE YOU AGAIN...?
?!
OF COURSE YOU WILL!!
MIKA
...

AH...

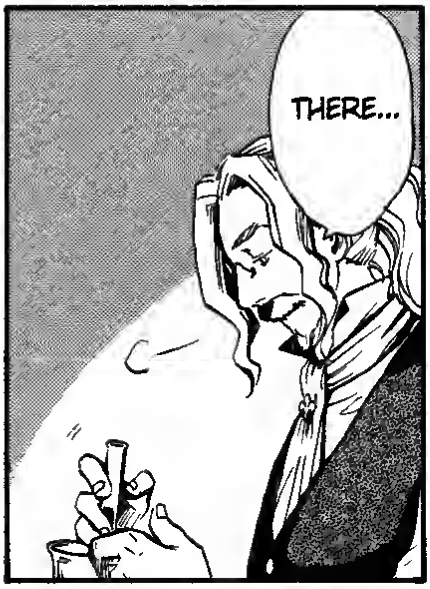

AW, MAN!
NO DICE TODAY EITHER. KINDA THOUGHT NOT.
CLOSED

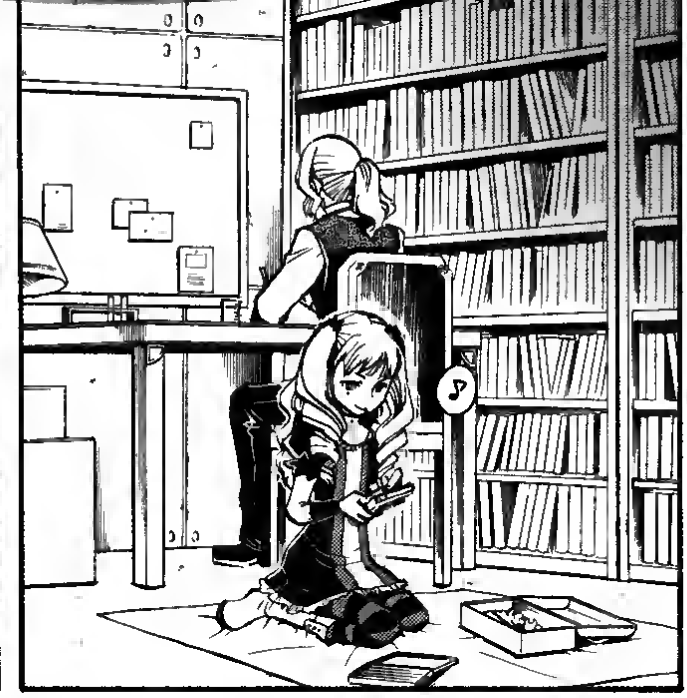

NENE-SEMPAI!!
YO!
SO YOU GUYS CAME TOO, HUH?
SMACK
OW!

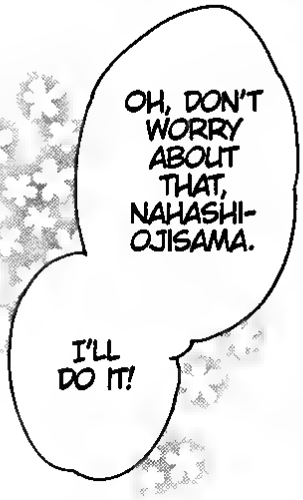

NO, I KNOW SHE'S JUST FINE!
OWW..
BUT Y'KNOW...
I THINK...

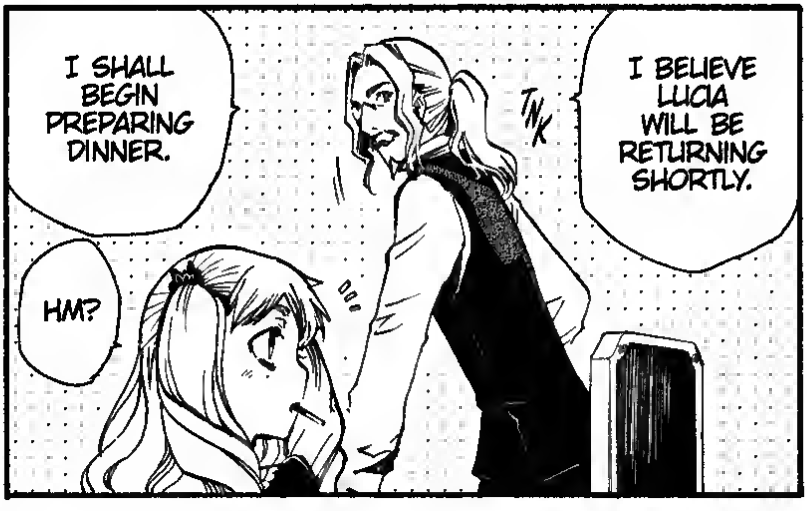
SUMIRE-CHAN WILL COME HOME...
FOR SURE!
WHAT THE... RIKU! WHAT'RE YOU CRYING FOR?!
Venus Vanguard

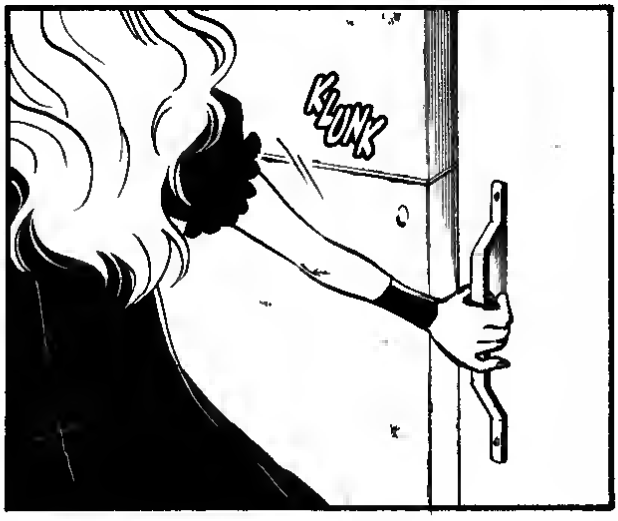
LOLA, WOULD YOU PLEASE...?
SURE!


THERE...




OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, NAHASHI-OJISAMA.
I'LL DO IT!


I SHALL BEGIN PREPARING DINNER.
HM?
I BELIEVE LUCIA WILL BE RETURNING SHORTLY.


KLUNK

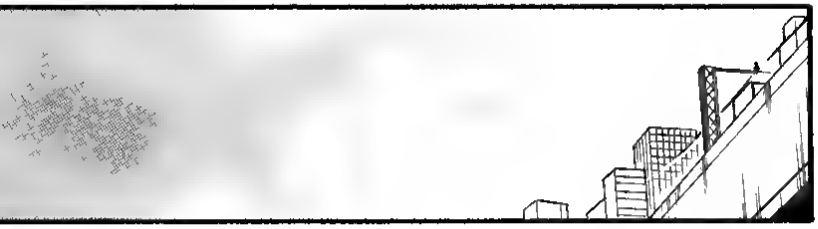
Y'KNOW ...
SIGH
ALL RIGHTY THEN!
HMMM... WHAT TO MAKE TONIGHT?
CHOCOLATE'S OFF LIMITS DRAT
WHAT I REALLY WANT...
IS THE STEW SUMIRE USED TO MAKE.

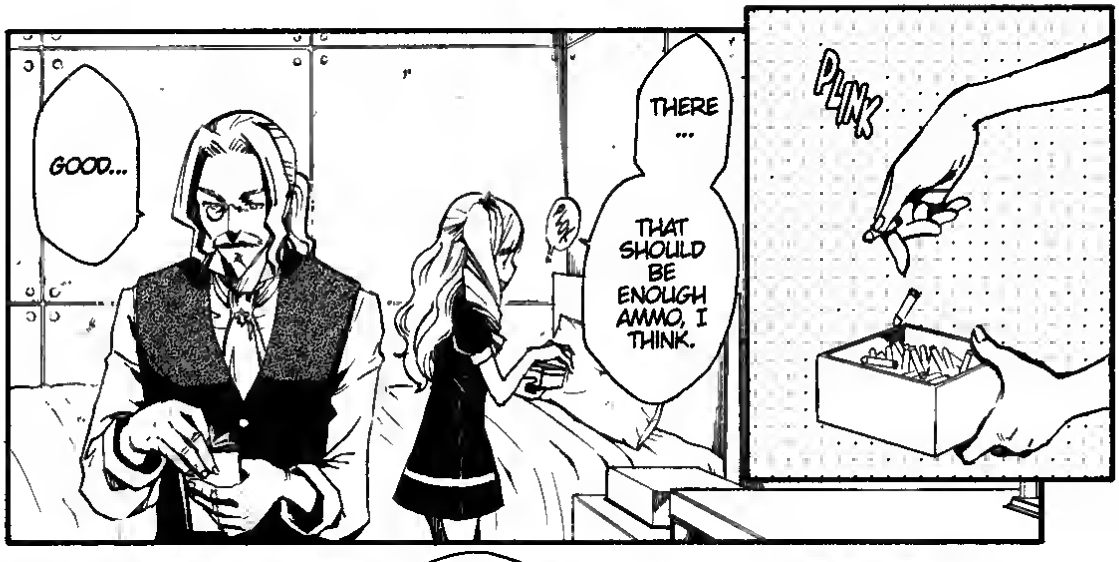
THE NIGHT I ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED THIS...

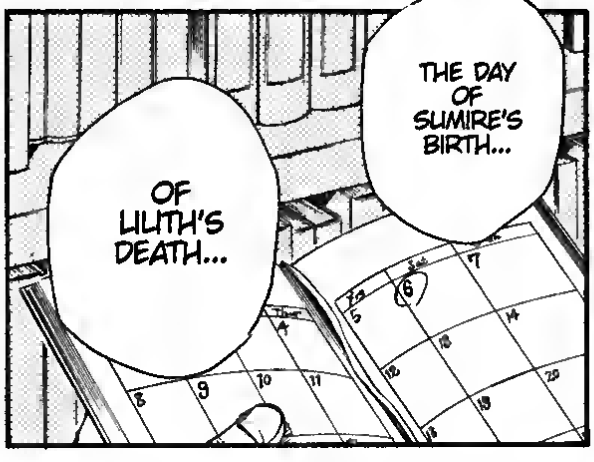
...WAS A NIGHT A LOT LIKE THIS ONE, WASN'T IT?
MOTHER'S BROOCH.

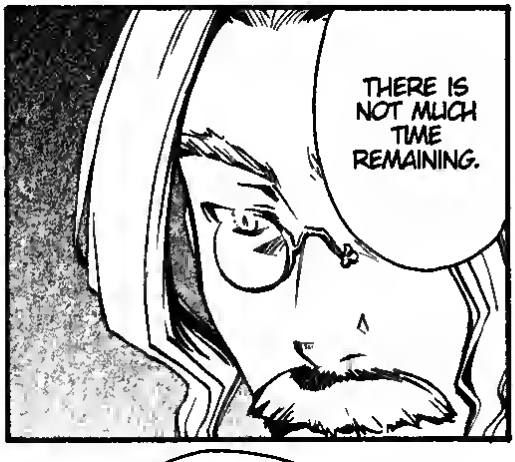
IT WAS THIS-- NO, YOU, MOTHER--
WHO BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
PLEASE, WATCH OVER US.
KEEP US SAFE.

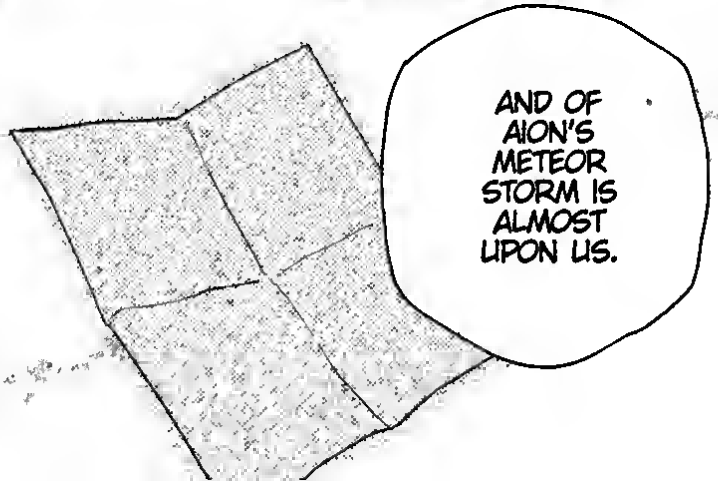
BOTH ME...
AND HER.

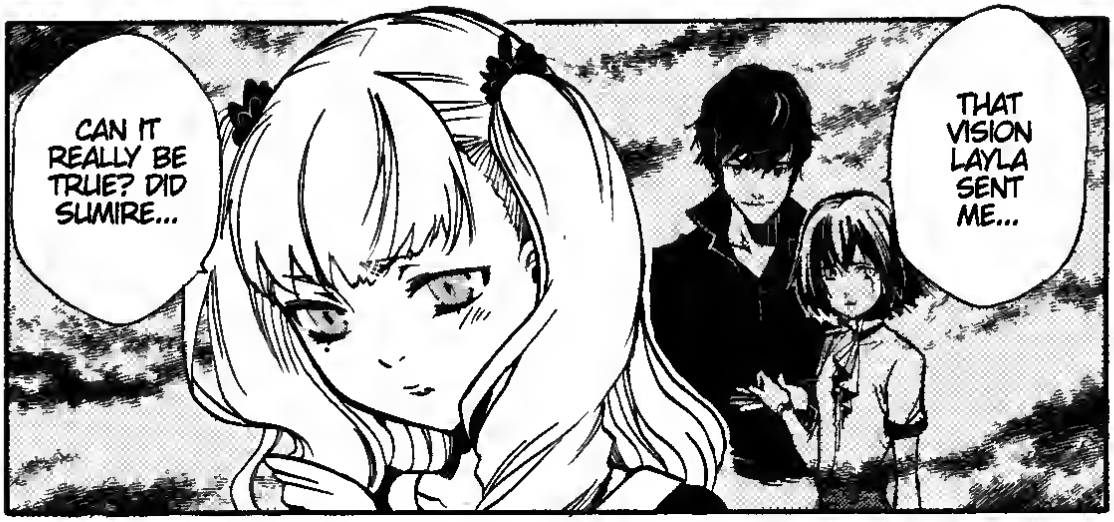



GOOD...
THERE ...
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH AMMO, I THINK.
PLINK


OF LILITH'S DEATH...
THE DAY OF SUMIRE'S BIRTH...

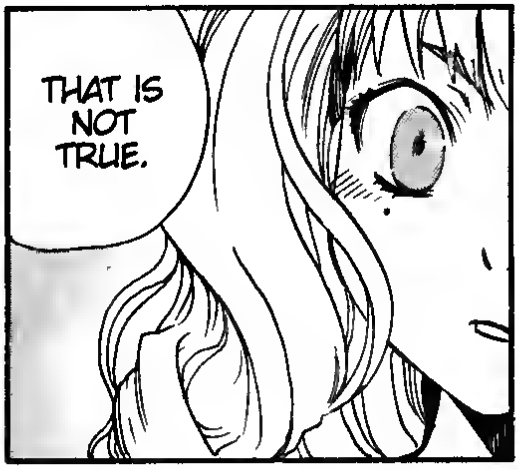

THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME REMAINING.


AND OF AION'S METEOR STORM IS ALMOST UPON US.


CAN IT REALLY BE TRUE? DID SUMIRE...
THAT VISION LAYLA SENT ME...

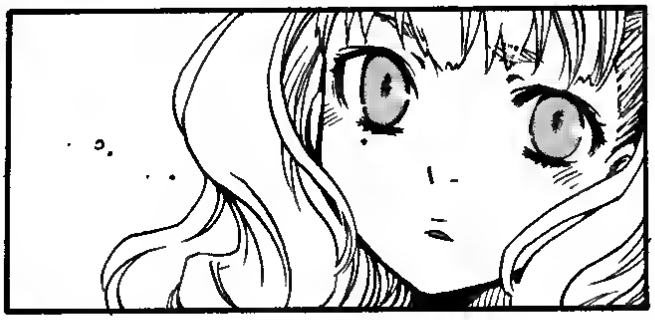
I AM CERTAIN...
THAT SUMIRE-KUN SIMPLY WISHED TO PROTECT EVERYONE.

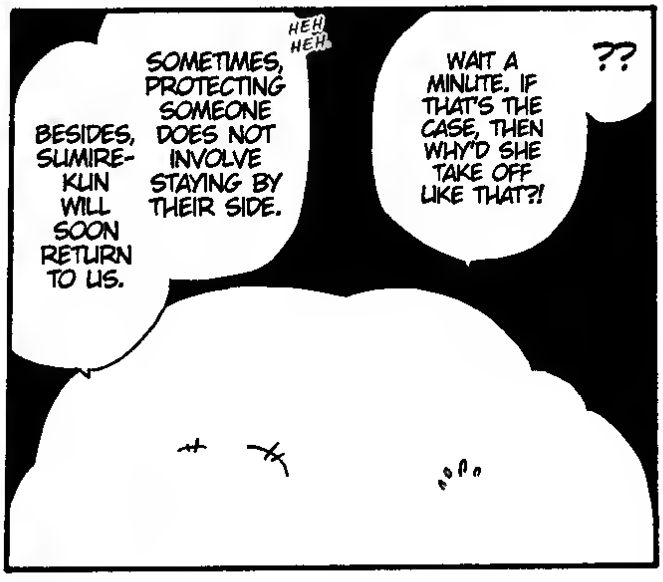
LOLA...
DID SHE REALLY LEAVE US SO THAT SHE COULD GO HELP THAT AION JERK?!


THAT IS NOT TRUE.

YOU. LUCIA. MYSELF.
EVERYONE SHE HOLDS DEAR.

I AM QUITE SURE THAT *LUCIA* WILL BRING HER BACK.
AFTER ALL, IT IS FOR PRECISELY THAT PURPOSE...
SKF SKF

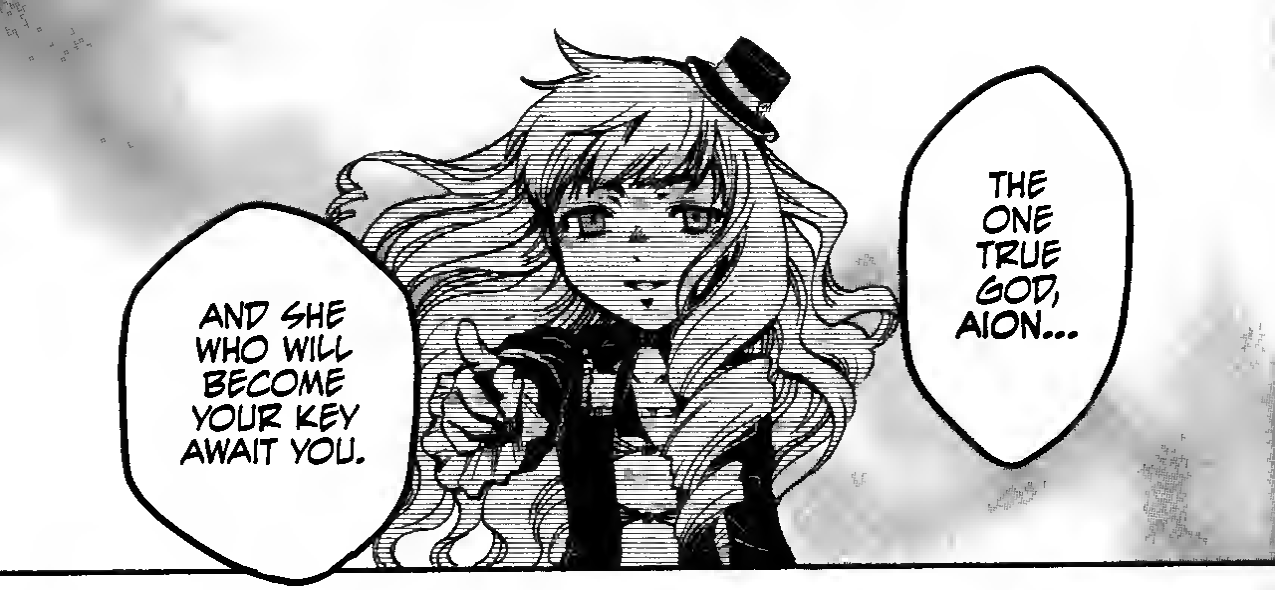


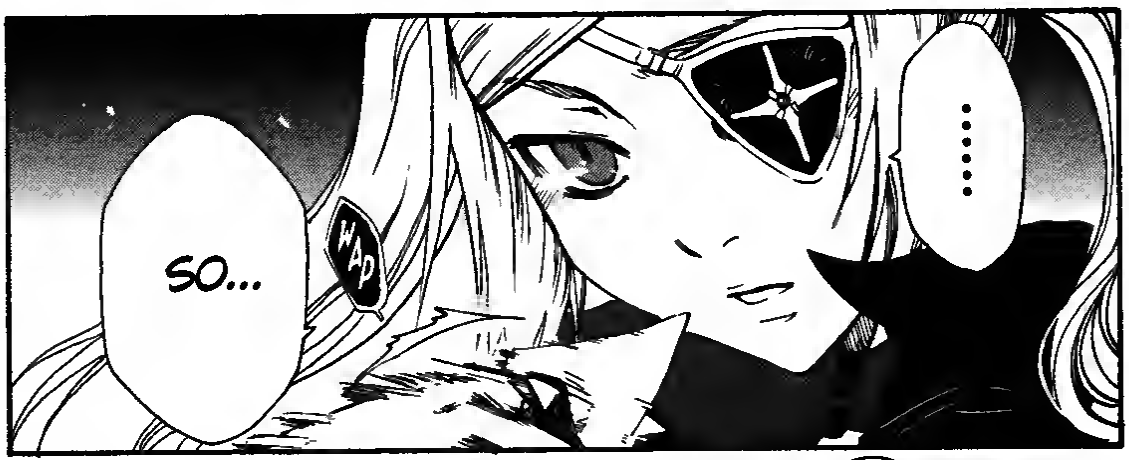

BESIDES, SUMIRE-KUN WILL SOON RETURN TO US.
SOMETIMES, PROTECTING SOMEONE DOES NOT INVOLVE STAYING BY THEIR SIDE.
HEH HEH.
WAIT A MINUTE. IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY'D SHE TAKE OFF LIKE THAT?!
??

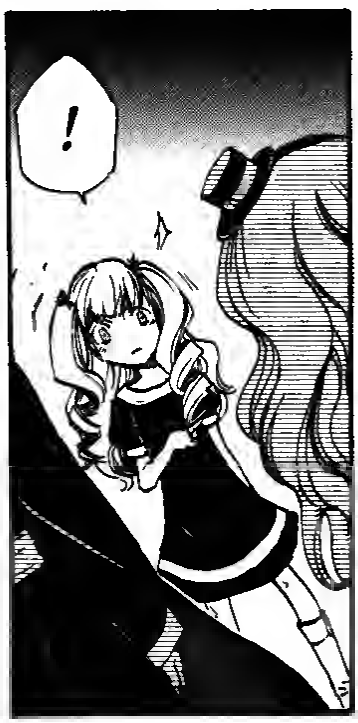
...THAT SHE HAS SPENT THESE LAST TWO MONTHS DOING NAUGHT BUT TRAINING HER POWERS TO PERFECTION...
EVEN THOUGH NOT A *SINGLE* VIRUS HAS SHOWN ITSELF.
HER REASON TO FIGHT GIVES HER STRENGTH.
SHE HAS FOUND HER SIMPLE HATRED OF THE VIRUSES OR DESIRE FOR REVENGE AGAINST LUCIF TO BE POOR MOTIVATORS, YOU SEE.
THEY LOST THEIR POWER WHEN SHE DISCOVERED A NEW, FAR MORE IMPORTANT WISH.

KLATTER
!
HER REASON TO FIGHT?
IT'S TIME...
LOLA ...?!
I JUST GOT ANOTHER VISION FROM LAYLA.

HHP
FWISH
!!
VM
FD
!
TO THE ONE WHO WILL BE THE GATE TO THE "TRUE WORLD."


THE ONE TRUE GOD, AION...
AND SHE WHO WILL BECOME YOUR KEY AWAIT YOU.


.....
SO...


!

.....
TURN
FWISH

SUMIRE REALLY IS HANGING OUT WITH AION. HNH.

LOLA.
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.
HUH...?
ONCE WE GO BEYOND THE GATE INTO THE TRUE WORLD...
YOU WILL FINALLY BE ONE WITH ME.

HEE HEE HEE!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT...
FD..

HUH? BECOME ONE WITH HER...?
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT...?
AN "INVITATION," HUH?
INVITATION

SHK
LUCIA! HOW COULD YOU BE SO CARE-LESS--?!
WHA --?
SHRIP
INVIT
SHK
NGK!!
BATHMP
GLOOOW
!

WHAT THE...?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
.....?!
INVITATION

RUSTLE
THERE.
IT'S FINISHED.

……

EXQUISITE.

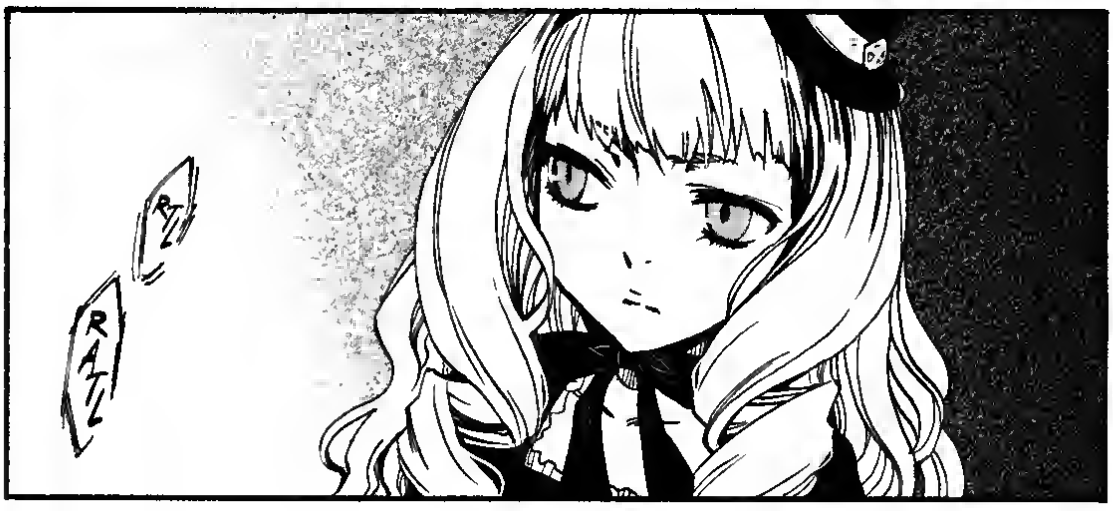
COME.

AH. LAYLA.
TP

FP

HMPH
I SEE THIS TIME...
YOU MANAGED TO DELIVER MY MESSAGE WITHOUT INCIDENT.
ALL THAT REMAINS...
IS TO AWAIT OUR GUESTS.
THEN WE CAN FINALLY BEGIN OUR GRAND PARTY.

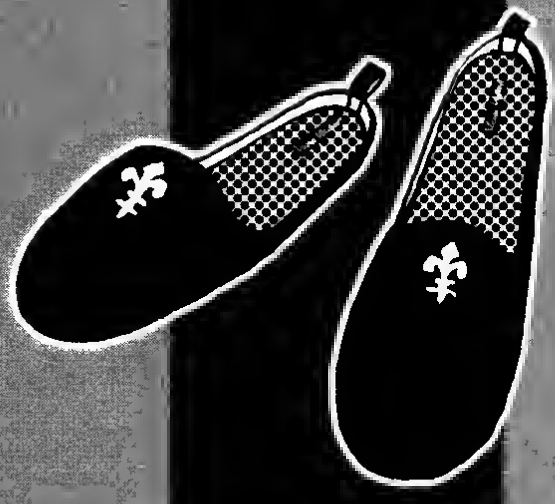
ALL IN CELEBRATION OF YOUR BIRTH, MY DEAR...

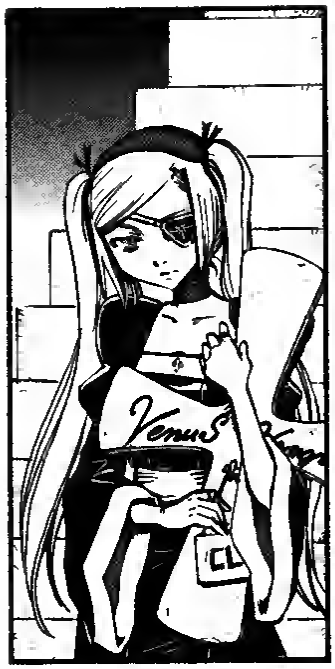

D4
RRR

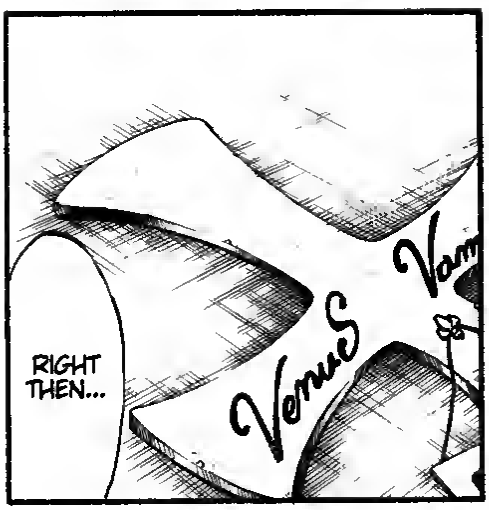
SKREE
AND THE BIRTH OF MY NEW WORLD!
FWOOOOO

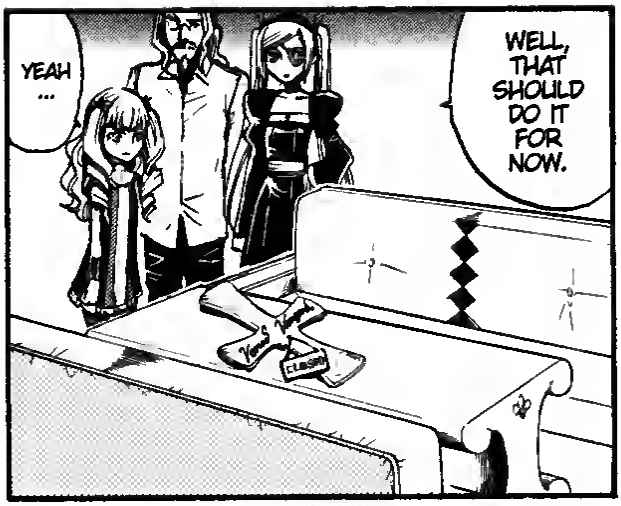
Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard





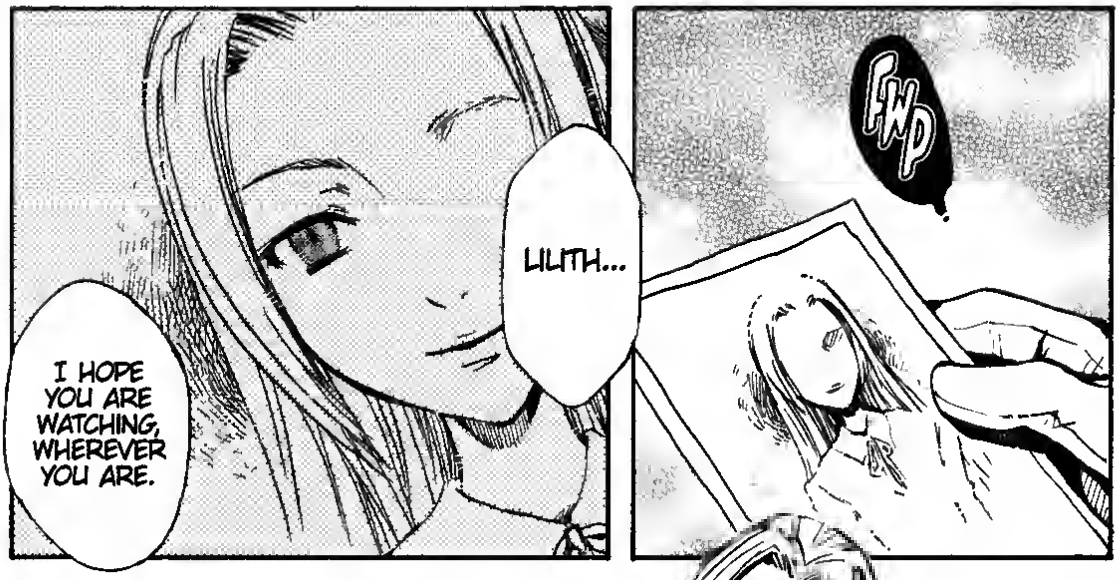




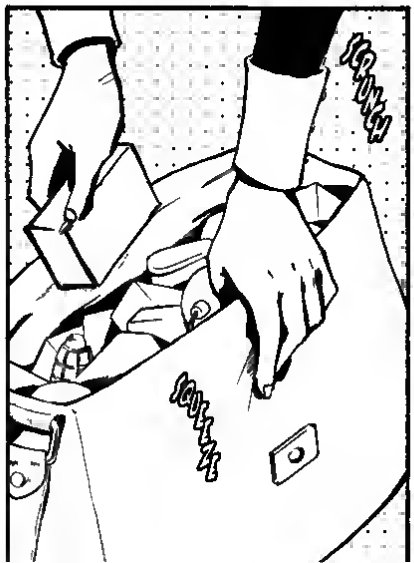
EVERYONE, GATHER IN THE BASEMENT IN ONE HOUR.

Piece 34
DIAGRAMS. WATCHES.

THERE.
CHINK
SHHHK


I HOPE YOU ARE WATCHING, WHEREVER YOU ARE.
LILITH...
FWD

I GO TO GRANT YOUR FINAL WISH.
FOR NOW...


SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH

SMF

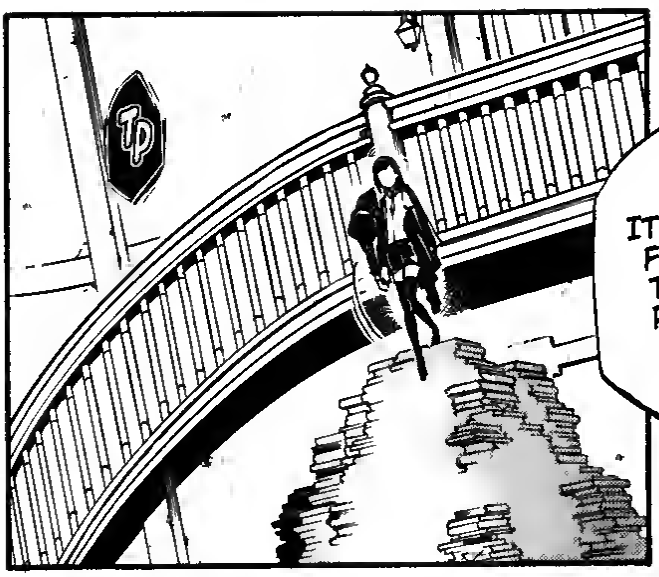
SWIP
THERE ...!
TWIRL
'KAY...
BE BACK IN A BIT, GRANDPA!

INVITATION
FINAL-LY...
THE DAY'S FINALLY HERE.

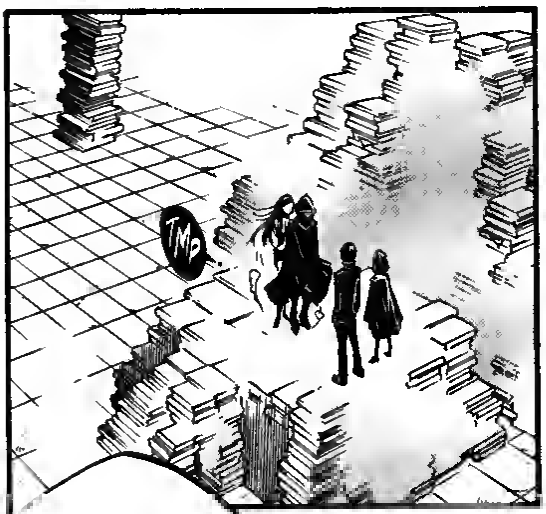
HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
SUMIRE.
WILL IT REALLY WORK?

WHEN THE TRUE WORLD COMES...
REALLY BE ABLE TO BE TO-GETHER...
FOREVER AND EVER?
WILL LOLA AND I...
IT WAS ONLY THROUGH YOUR UNIQUE POWERS THAT I WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE MUCH OF DERMEIL'S KNOWLEDGE, AFTER ALL.
I SIMPLY MUST THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
WITHOUT IT, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GRANT THIS DEAREST WISH OF YOURS.
OF COURSE YOU WILL, LAYLA.

BUT NOW MY TRUE WORLD WILL COME.
AND THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH, BODY AND SOUL...
INDEED, THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN EVERYTHING WILL DISAPPEAR.
ALL WILL BECOME AS ONE...
AND NO ONE NEED EVER BE ALONE AGAIN.
THAT IS THE TRUE SALVATION.
HEE HEE!
OOH, GOODIE!



WELL THEN.
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GET READY.

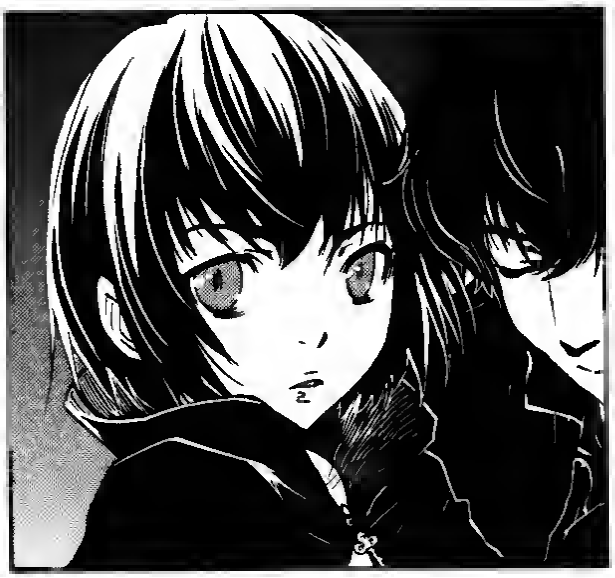


I MUST PREPARE A PROPER SURPRISE FOR OUR GUESTS, AFTER ALL.

FWISH

NOW TO CHANGE MY "CLOTHES"...
KIIIIIIIN

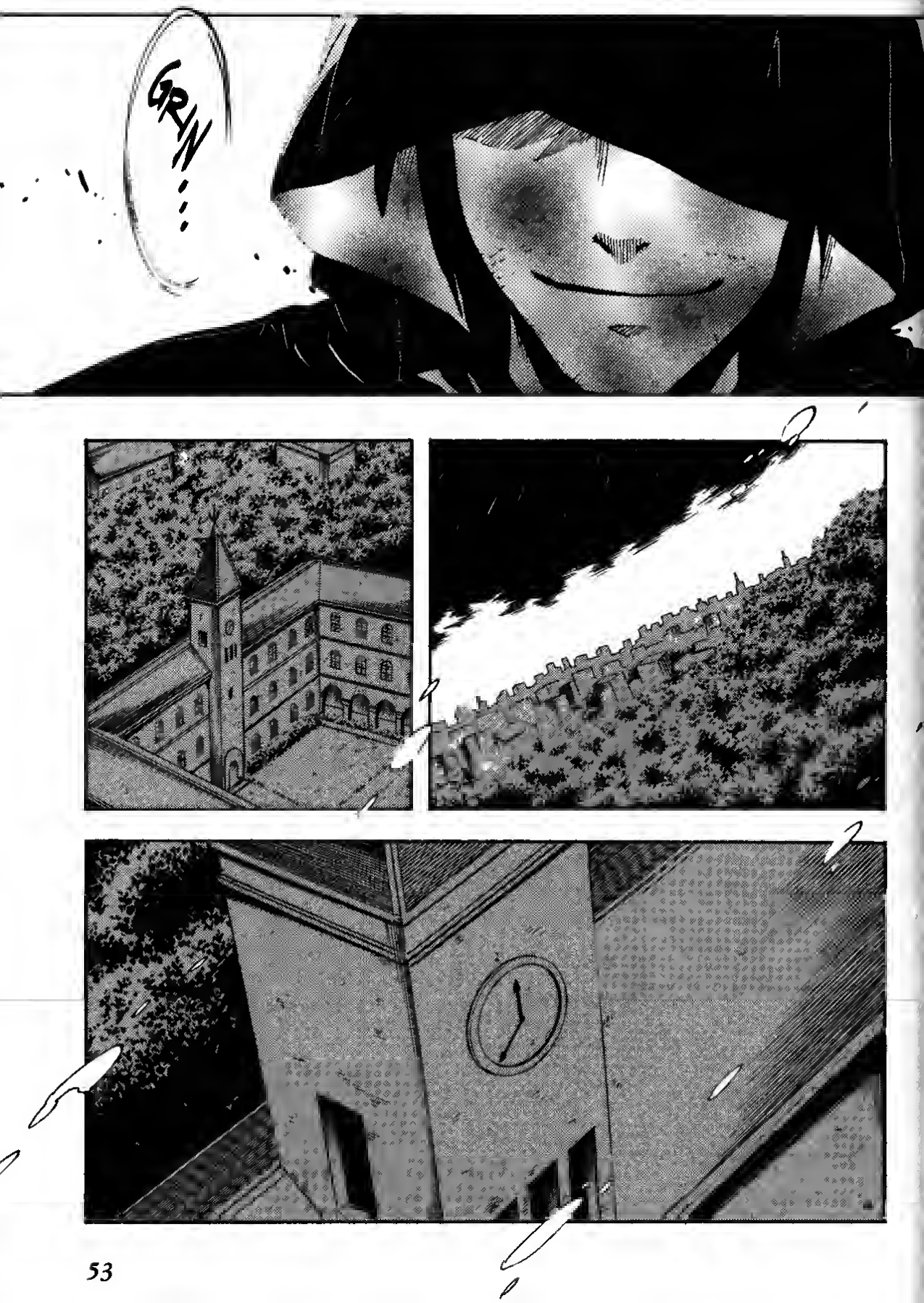
!
SLUMP



GRAB

SWF
……!

TWITCH


GRIN...

FSHHHH
SMF
APPARENTLY, WE ARE TO STAND WITHIN IT AT PRECISELY MIDNIGHT.
YES.
SO THAT'S THE TRANS-PORTATION SIGIL THAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE INVITATION?

TINK
ALL RIGHT. FINISHED.
EVERY-BODY, COME STAND IN THE CENTER.
GIVEN THE DESIGN, I WOULD THINK THIS WILL TAKE US TO WHERE SUMIRE-KUN IS BEING KEPT.

KWOOO

AAAAAAH!!
FWIIISH
?!
WHAT THE --?!

MY GOD ...!
KYAAAA!!
VEIL OF WIND, SPREAD YOUR WINGS!

WHEW!
THAT WAS CLOSE &
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!
!
FWISH
ZLORP
17...
WHAT AN ASTOUNDING NUMBER OF VIRUSES!
IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF THEY HAVE SOMEHOW ALL BEEN DRAWN HERE...
EEEE
SHHH
EEE

NO WONDER THERE WEREN'T ANY OOZING AROUND TOWN...
THEY WERE ALL HERE.
SO IN THAT MAN-SION...
WE'LL FIND THE ONE THING THAT COULD LURE ALL OF THEM TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
SUMIRE.
SHALL WE ENTER VIA THE ROOF?
NO.
WE'RE INVITED GUESTS, REMEMBER?
SO, LIKE PROPER GUESTS...

WE GO IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR!!
ROGER!
ZZ
BOOM
ZZ
BOOM
BWOOF
HYAH!

SWISH
SLASH
HNH!
EAT THIS! VACCINE BOMB!!

GOTTA HAND IT TO THEM...
THEY SURE SET UP A GREAT WELCOMING PARTY!
FOOOOM
ON IT!
LOLA!

EXCEL-
LENT!
!!

WELCOME.
AION-SAMA AWAITS YOU.
AS DOES THE KEY.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE RABBLE BEHIND YOU.
THEY DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO EVEN CROSS THIS THRESHOLD.
……!!
I SUGGEST WE FOLLOW THEM.
THEY HAVE NO REASON TO ATTACK US NOW.

TOK
TOK
TOK
ALL RIGHT... WE'LL GO.
GLARE
HN. PRETTY OLD, RUN-DOWN PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE.
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO THROW THIS KIND OF BASH...
HEH
IN A ROTTING SHACK THAT REEKS OF DUST AND MOLD.

GRR
WHAT?
STUPID.
WHO CARES WHAT BUILDING SURROUNDS US?
SOON, NONE OF THAT WILL MATTER ONE TEENY BIT.
WE HAVE ARRIVED...
LAYLA, BE QUIET.
TOK

KREEEEAK

WELCOME.
LLICIA-SAN.

HUH ...?
SUMIRE?
SMILE
TMP
SUMIRE !!

?!
FWISH
GLARE
RRGH ....!
AH. LUCIA. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
JOLT
?!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
ISN'T THAT AION UP THERE...?
CORRECT.
WAIT, HUH...?
AION...
WELL, ONLY HALF-CORRECT... AGAIN.
THAT...
THAT VOICE...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
?!
NAHASHI-OJISAMA...?

HEH.
SWF
!
HUH ...?

I KNOW HIM.
I'VE SEEN THIS FACE BEFORE...
SOMEWHERE... BUT WHERE?
OH. THAT'S RIGHT...
SINGER
YOU'RE --
IN AN OLD...
PHOTOGRAPH...
IMPOS-SIBLE...
IT'S YOU...!

LUCIF!!

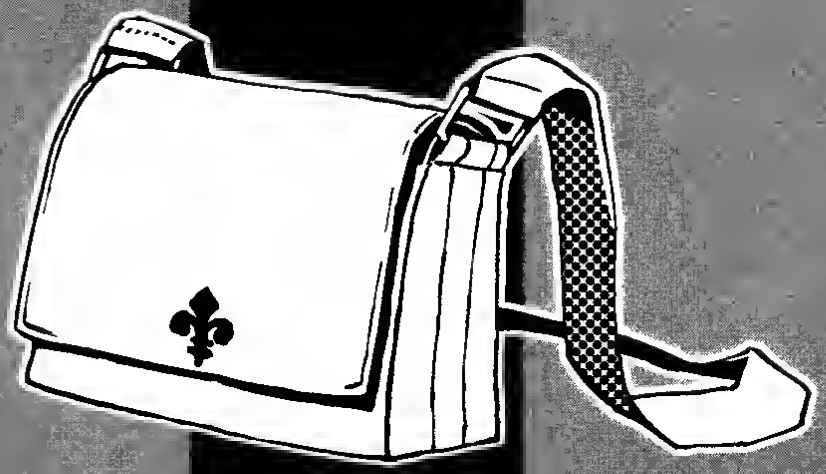
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG I HAVE WANTED TO SEE YOU.
LUCIA...

DID...
DID YOU JUST SAY--?
NAHASHI ...?

MY PRECIOUS, BELOVED...
DAUGHTER.

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard



Piece 35 NARROW. BOUNDARIES.

RSTL
WAIT...
LUCIF?
COME HERE, LUCIA.
HIM!! HE'S THE CREEP WHO KIDNAPPED LAYLA!!
RGH ...!!

THE "GATE" TO MY ONE "TRUE WORLD."
YOU'VE BECOME EXACTLY WHAT I ALWAYS HOPED YOU WOULD BE...
NH ...!
BTHMP
THAT IS AN HONOR GREATER THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN COULD EVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE.
WAIT
I AM SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE FOR SO LONG TO DO IT. I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME.
BTHMP
AAH...
AH...

WHAP
!
LUCIF! WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HAVE YOU NOT DONE ENOUGH?
WAS IT NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MAKE LILITH CRY?
NAHASHI...

HMPH ...
MUST YOU NOW MAKE HER DAUGHTER CRY AS WELL?!!
CHING
GRAB
SLICE
SKSHHH
OOMPH!!
!!

!!
THOK
WHISH
OJISAMA !!
?!
WHA?!
NA-HASHI !!
AGHH!!!
LAYLA ...?!
KIIIIN
FWISH

NAHA-SHI!
NH ...!
SHUK
HOW RUDE.
YOU WOULD INTERRUPT THE TEAR-FILLED REUNION OF A LONG-ESTRANGED FATHER AND DAUGHTER?
COME, LUCIA. COME GIVE YOUR FATHER A HUG.
LET US END THIS WORLD OF SOLITUDE.
GLARE
COME. OPEN THE GATE AND LET US GO FIND EVERLASTING PEACE THERE TOGETHER.
IN THE "TRUE WORLD," ALL WILL BECOME ONE, AND NO ONE WILL EVER BE LONELY AGAIN.

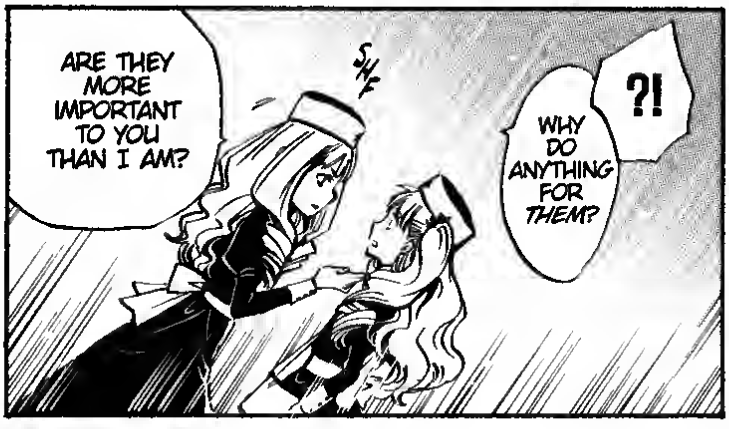
LUCIA, WAI--
NH...!
ZING
PEACE...? AN END TO LONELINESS?
HA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY HEARD THOSE WORDS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
KIIIIIIIN

NO RIGHT AT ALL!!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
WOOSH
WAIT, LAYLA --!

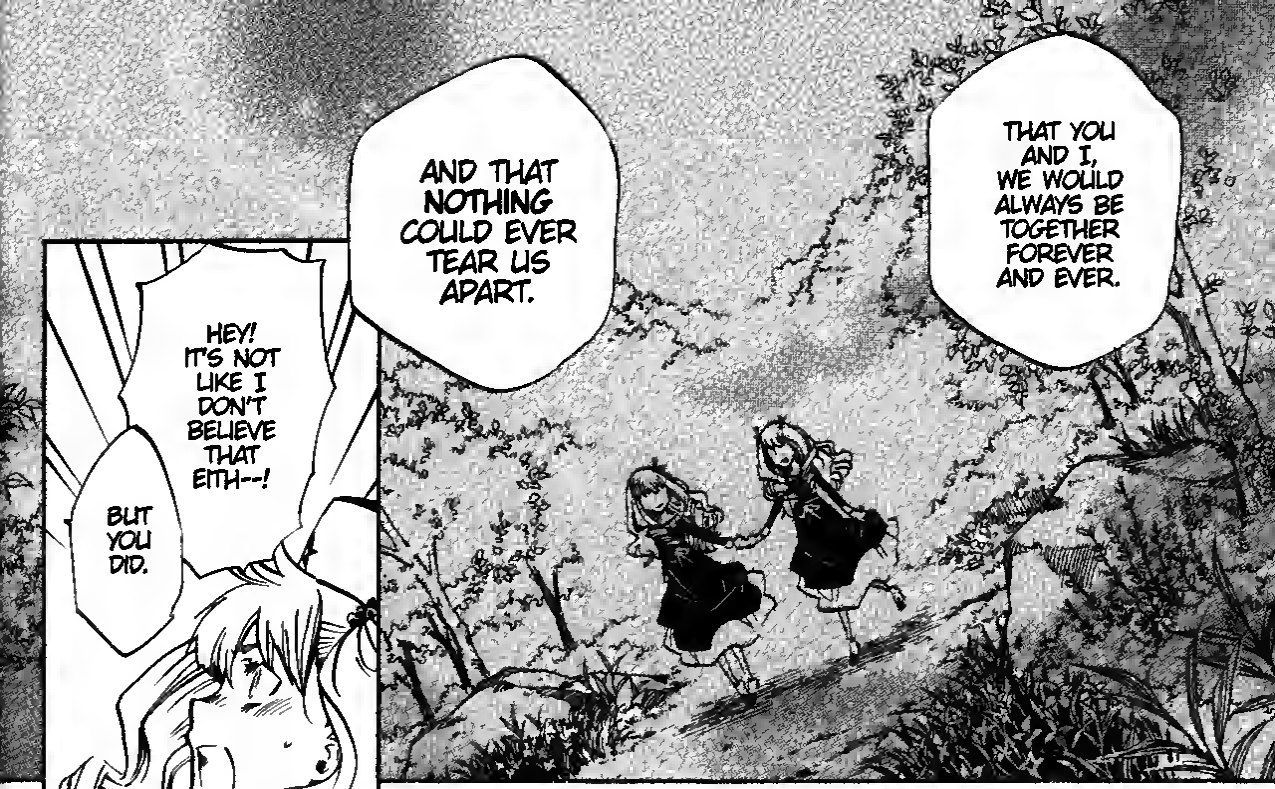
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
LET ME OUT!!
NO.
STAY INSIDE THIS KEKKAI AND WATCH WITH ME.
KIIN

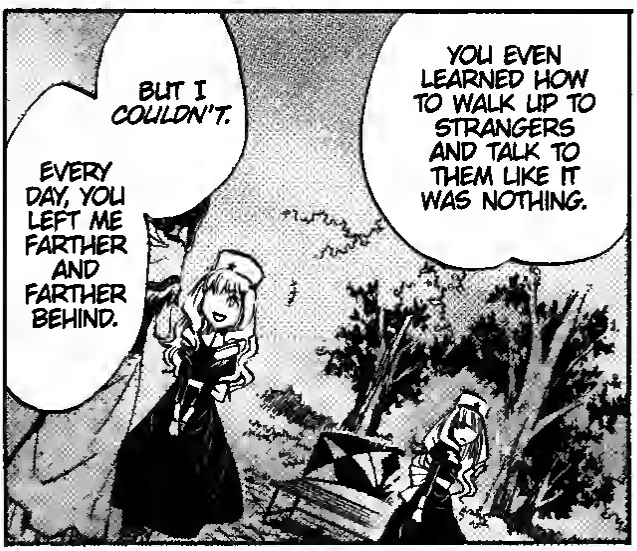
WHAT?! HOW CAN YOU SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO JUST WATCH?!
LUCIA AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES! I HAVE TO--!
WHY?
WMPH

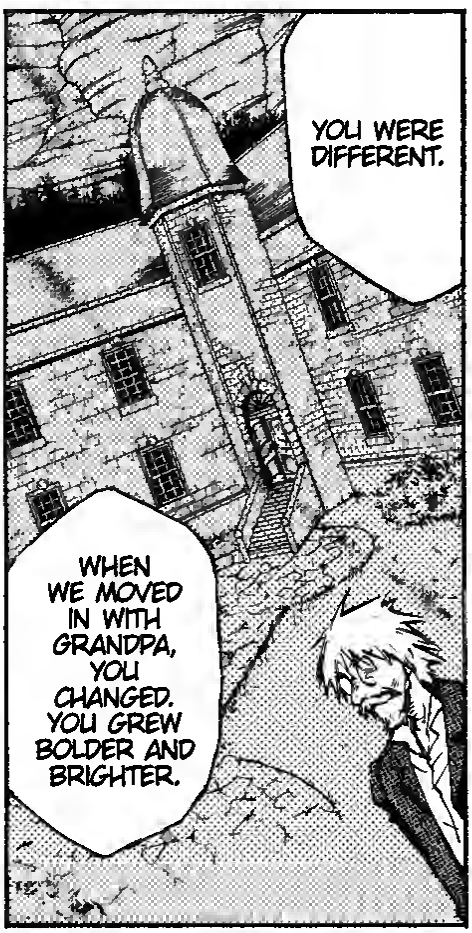
WHA...? LAYLA, WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOU--?
?

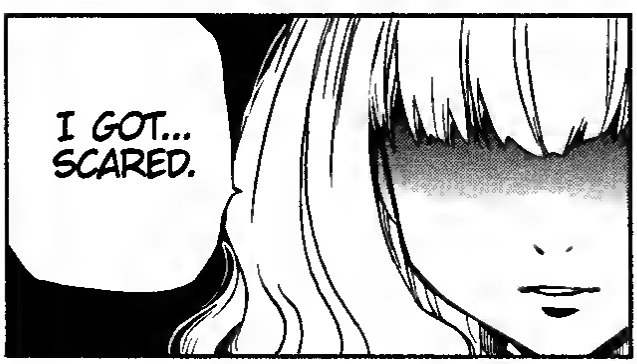

ARE THEY MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN I AM?
SHF
WHY DO ANYTHING FOR THEM?
?!

YOU'RE MINE! MINE! MINE! MINE!!
NO! I WON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME!!
FWOOOOSH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING THIS FOR?!
WH-WHY...?
I WILL NOT LET YOU GO ANY-WHERE!
LAY... LAYLA...?!
THUMP
THERE WAS ONE THING I ALWAYS BELIEVED...
.....?!
SO... YOU REALLY DIDN'T UNDER-STAND, AFTER ALL.
YOU DON'T KNOW?


THAT YOU AND I, WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER FOREVER AND EVER.
AND THAT NOTHING COULD EVER TEAR US APART.
HEY! IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T BELIEVE THAT EITH--!
BUT YOU DID.


YOU EVEN LEARNED HOW TO WALK UP TO STRANGERS AND TALK TO THEM LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.
BUT I COULDN'T.
EVERY DAY, YOU LEFT ME FARTHER AND FARTHER BEHIND.


YOU WERE DIFFERENT.
WHEN WE MOVED IN WITH GRANDPA, YOU CHANGED. YOU GREW BOLDER AND BRIGHTER.


I GOT... SCARED.

BUT THEN HE CAME.
HE SHOWED ME EVERY-THING.
EVEN THE ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE...
WE WILL NEVER, EVER BE SEPARATED EVER AGAIN.
LAYLA...?
I WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. ANYTHING.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT GUY WHO WAS IN YOUR MIND, RIGHT?
"HE" THIS, "HE" THAT, HUH?
THAT WAS AION, WASN'T IT?

THAT'S WHY I CUT OUR TELEPATHIC LINK.
BECAUSE HE SAID THAT WAS ONE MORE STEP TO ENSURE WE COULD BECOME ONE FOREVER.

.....
WHO CARES WHO IT WAS? I DON'T.

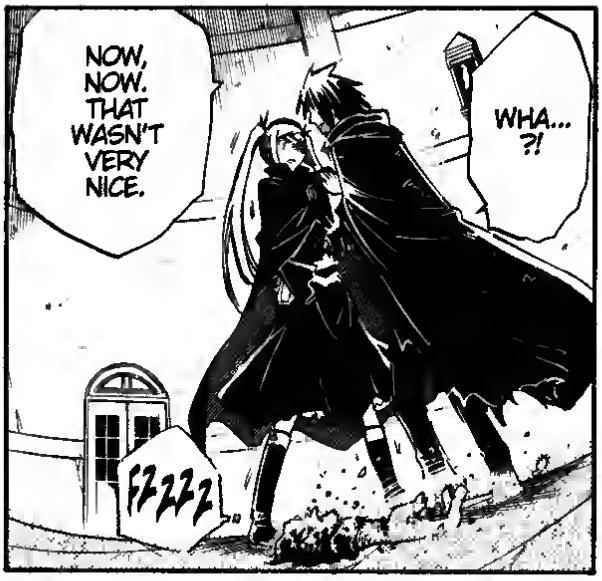
NOW ALL THAT WE NEED TO DO IS WAIT.
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW...

SWOOO
BEFORE THE GATE IS OPENED.
BOMF
YOUR POWERS HAVE MATURED SPLENDIDLY, LUCIA.
TRULY, THEY HAVE.
BOMF
WSH
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS?!
SHNK
HMPH. SO YOU'RE WAITING TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO, HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!
MY ELEMENTAL ATTACKS ARE GETTING TOTALLY NULLIFIED!
AND HE'S NOT EVEN BOTHERING TO ATTACK ME BACK.
SKSH

SHLUK
HUH ?!
GRAB
HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO DODGE!
THERE'S A GOOD GIRL, LUCIA.
SLICE
H-HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO--?!

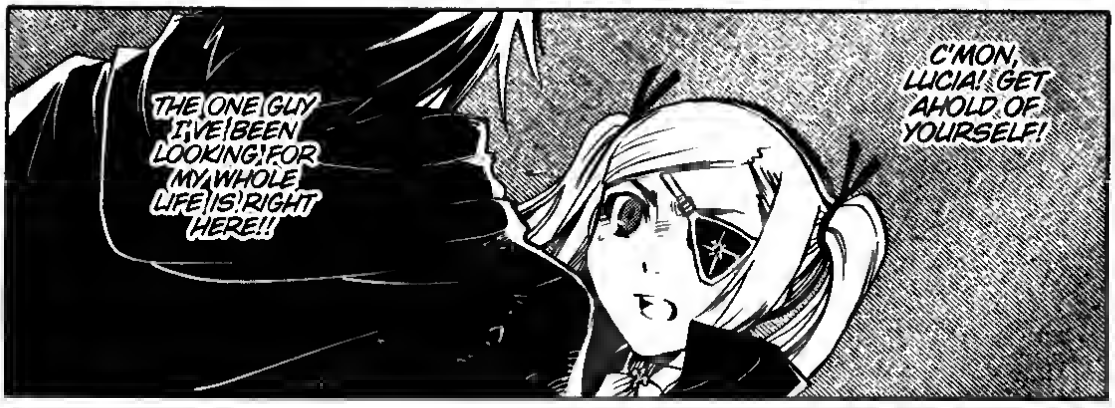
LISTEN TO WHAT FATHER HAS TO SAY.
HNNNGH...
DOESN'T THIS GUY FEEL PAIN?!
LET GO!
WHAT THE HELL...?!
LUCIA!
WSH
THUK
SLICE
LIKE HELL I'M GONNA LISTEN TO YOU!!
THUMP

SHUDDER
NOW ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN LIKE A GOOD GIRL? OR ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE THROWING A TANTRUM?
H-HEY...


NOW, NOW. THAT WASN'T VERY NICE.
WHA...?!
FZZZ

RGH...!

STRANGE... THIS IS ALL TOO STRANGE.
YES, IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW HIM, BUT THAT MAN SIMPLY DOES NOT FEEL LIKE LUCIF...


C'MON, LUCIA! GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF!
THE ONE GUY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR MY WHOLE LIFE IS RIGHT HERE!!

BEAT HIM...
AND EVERYTHING WILL FINALLY BE OVER!
BEAT HIM AND I CAN SAVE THEM.
BOTH OF THEM. MOTHER...
AND SUMIRE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
GLANCE
(HUFF)
LUCIA, WAI--!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN, AION!
WHAP
BY MY HAND!!

BUT FIRST...
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY TO MOTHER THROUGH HER BROOCH!

EVERYTHING THAT MOTHER SUFFERED...
ALL THE CRAP NAHASHI, SUMIRE, AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH ...
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'VE CAUSED?!
SURE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT "PEACE" YOU WANT SO BADLY...
BUT NOT BEFORE YOU APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE FIRST!!
THOSE WORDS OF YOURS MEAN NOTHING TO M--
TWITCH
?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, CHILD?
...?

!!
W-WHAT ...?!
H-HOW ...
HUH ?!

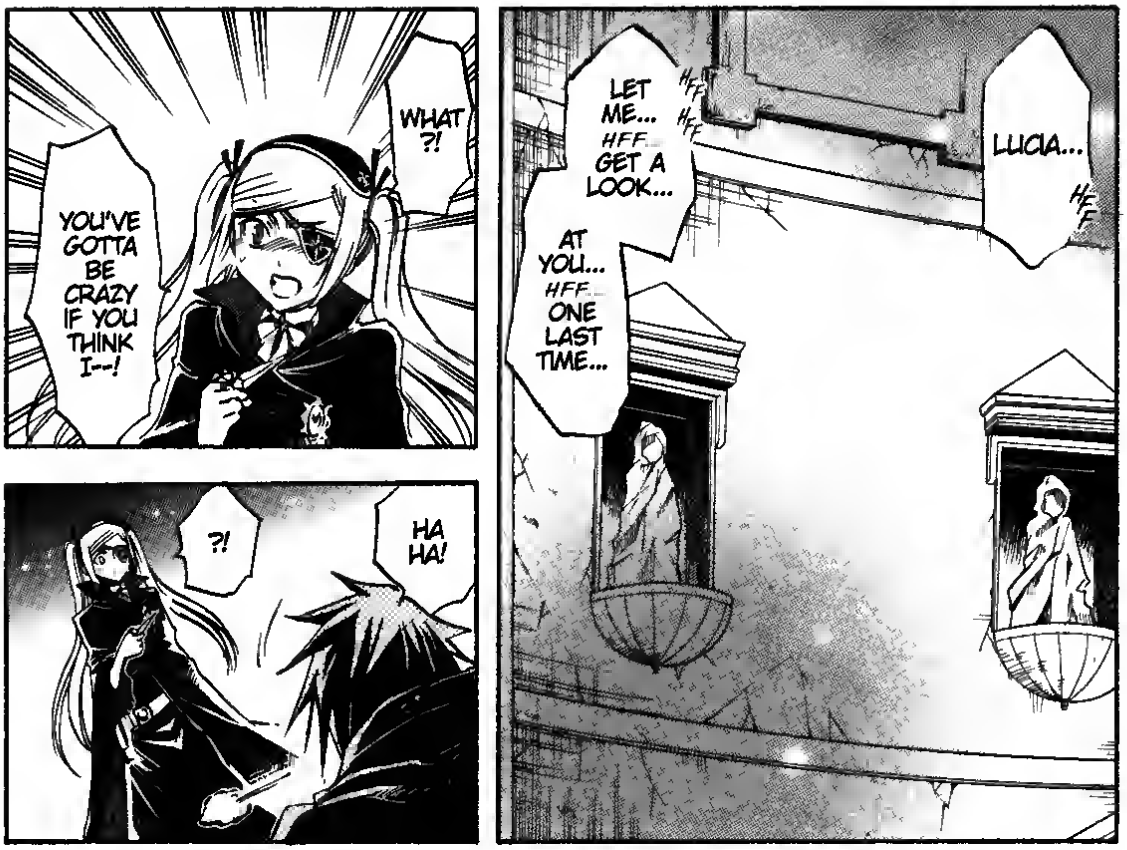
?!
SLUMP

WEEM

NGH ...!
DAMN IT! SO... CLOSE...

IMPOS-SIBLE...
EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE STILL RETAINS SOME SCRAP OF SELF?!

?!
A SHADOW...?!
FWSH
STAY BACK !!
.....
LU...
TWITCH
FWIP


WHAT ?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE CRAZY IF YOU THINK I--!
LUCIA... HFF
LET ME... HFF... GET A LOOK... AT YOU... HFF... ONE LAST TIME...
HA HA!
?!
HUH ...?
SO LONG ... HFF
!
I'VE BEEN LIVING IN A NIGHTMARE FOR SO, SO LONG...
LILITH ALWAYS... HFF... LOOKED LIKE THAT WHEN SHE GOT... HFF... GOT MAD.
YOU LOOK... HFF... JUST LIKE YOUR MOM.
HFF

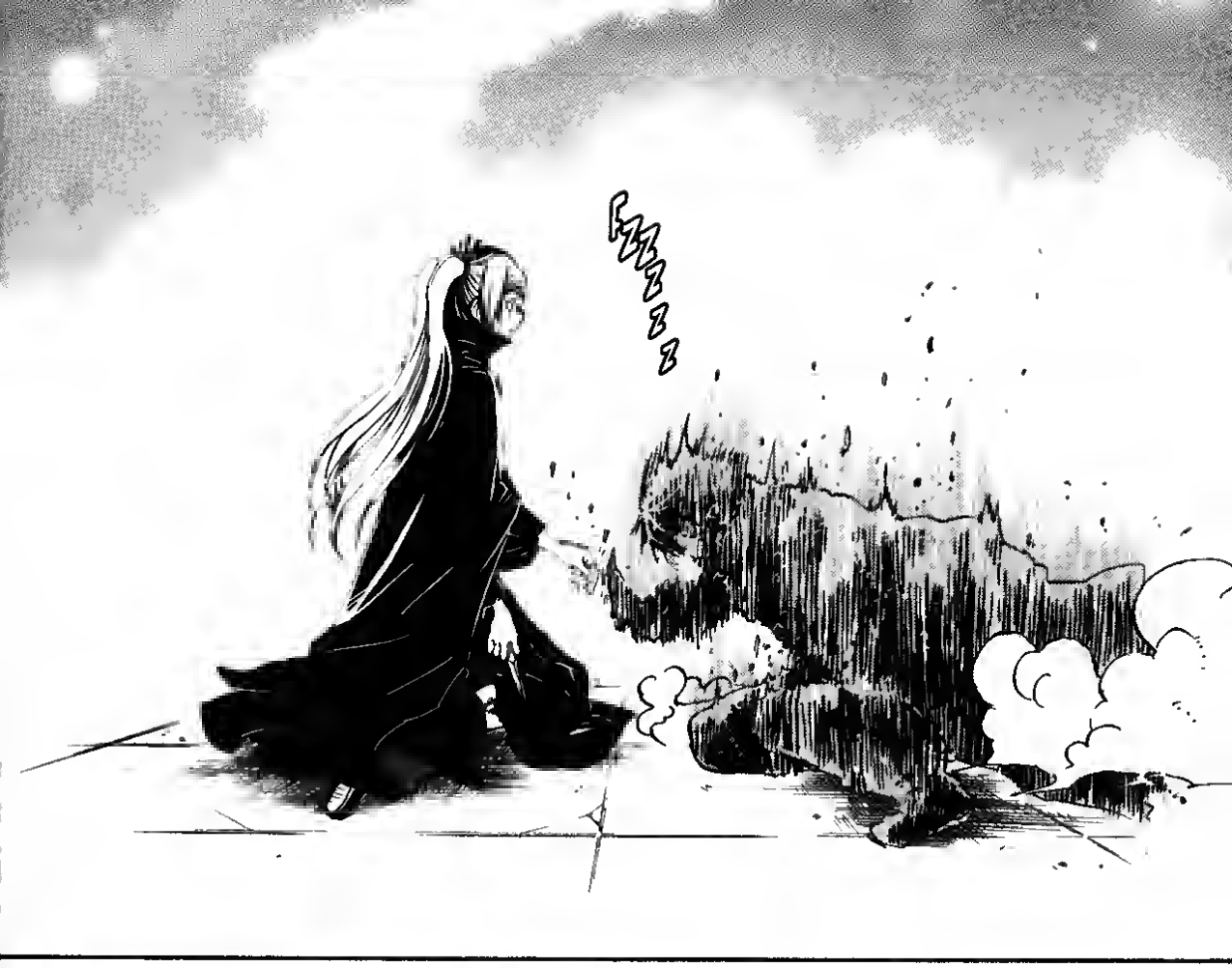
EVER SINCE THE DAY I MET HIM.
I COULD FEEL HIM... SITTING THERE IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD, SLOWLY TAKING OVER MY BODY.
I GOT SCARED.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HORRIBLE THINGS HE MIGHT DO IF... WHEN HE EVER GOT COMPLETE COMMAND.
SO I DECIDED TO END IT.
WHILE I STILL HAD SOME SCRAP OF CONTROL, I WENT OUT INTO THE WOODS THAT NIGHT...
KHHN
AND TRIED TO TAKE MY OWN LIFE...
THUK

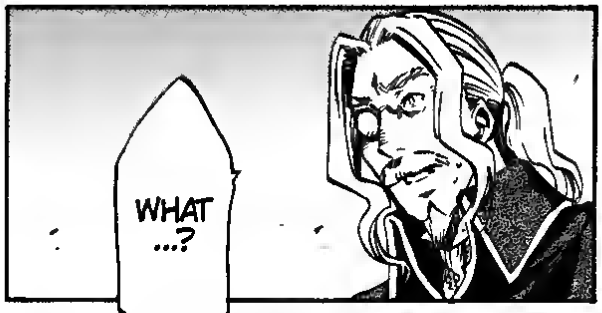
FWISH
BUT...
HUH ...?
LILITH?
I...
AH WELL. WE SHALL HAVE YET ANOTHER CHANCE.
HOW COULD YOU BE SO STUPID AS TO DESTROY THE KEY?!
YOU FOOL!
LILITH!
WHY...?!

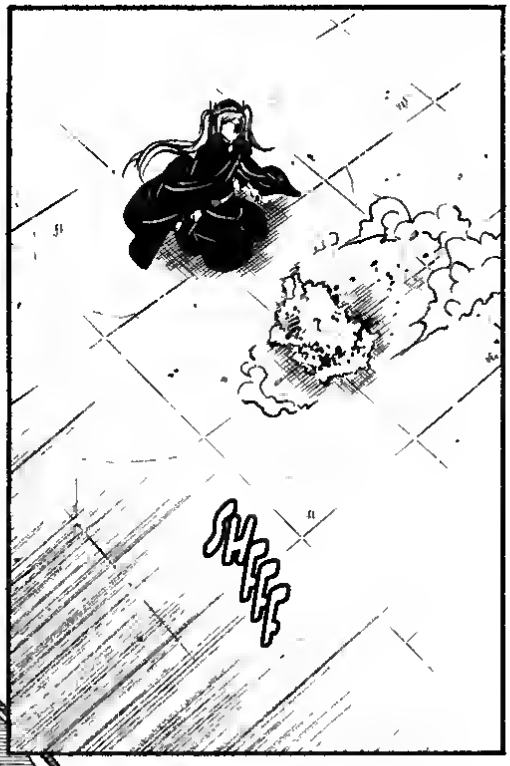
WHAT AM I...?
I WILL MAKE IT MINE NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
THE "TRUE WORLD" WILL BE MINE.
WHO AM I...?
WAIT... WHAT WAS I DOING...?
AH...
AAAH...
I... I KILLED THE ONE PERSON I CHERISHED MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF.
IT WILL BE MINE...
THE "TRUE WORLD"...
I... KNOW HER. I LOVED HER.
THEN...
EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.
AAAAAAAAAH!!!
HFF...
LUCIF ...?!
OH, THANK GOD YOU ARE BACK...
HFF
WHA ...?

SHE...
YOU DIDN'T KILL MOTHER.
THAT NIGHT, LILITH--
THEN...
SAVED YOU...?!
HF
I... HFF... I GAVE THAT BROOCH...
TO YOUR MOTHER... HFF... AS A PRESENT.
HEH... PRETTY PATHETIC FATHER, AREN'T I?
.....
LUCIA ...
SLUM

IT LOOKS... HFF...
IT LOOKS GOOD ON Y--
FP
CRUMBLE


FZZZZZ


WHAT ...?


SHUFF

DRAT.

IT FINALLY BROKE, HM?
AND HERE I KEPT IT AROUND THIS LONG...
HOPING I MIGHT BE ABLE TO WRING SOME MORE USE FROM IT.
I DIDN'T NEED FOR IT TO UPSTAGE ME, ANYWAY.
AH WELL.

KILLIN
BWOOOF

LET US BEGIN THIS PARTY IN EARNEST, SHALL WE?
SWF

HA
WHP
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD OPEN OF YOUR OWN WILL MY GATE. BUT IT SEEMS THAT WILL NOT BE THE CASE.
SO LET'S STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH. HM?
WHAT ?!
BLACK FRAGMENT SIGILS...?!
AH!
AND SO MANY...!
ALL THE PARTS NECESSARY TO BUILD MY "TRUE WORLD" HAVE BEEN GATHERED.
KREEE

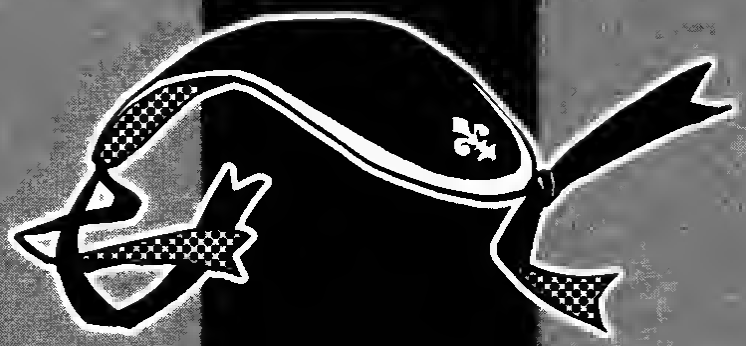
ALL THAT REMAINS...
IS TO OPEN THE WAY TO THE WORLD THESE FRAGMENTS WILL CREATE.
THE WORLD WHERE I SHALL BE A GOD.
GUIDE ME TO THAT WORLD, MY KEY.
AS YOU WISH...

SUMIRE ?!
LUBTHMP
I SHALL FORCE THE GATE'S AWAKEN-ING...

WITH MY OWN HAND.

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

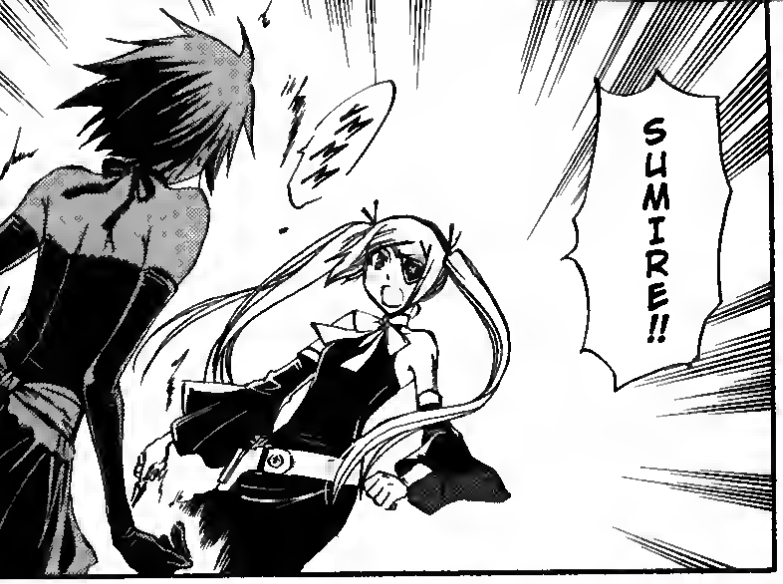


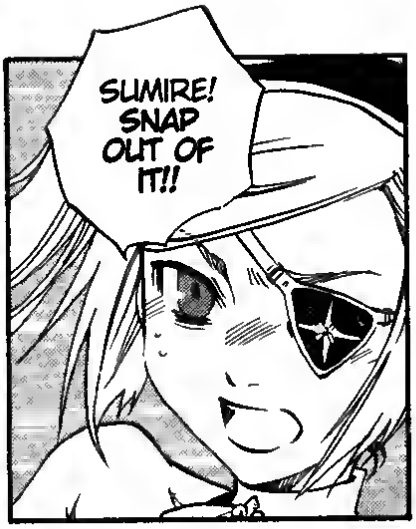
YES. TAKE THIS SAD, MISERABLE WORLD...
GUOOOW
AND REPAINT IT IN BRILLIANT COLOR.

Piece 36 WORLD. DESTRUCTION.

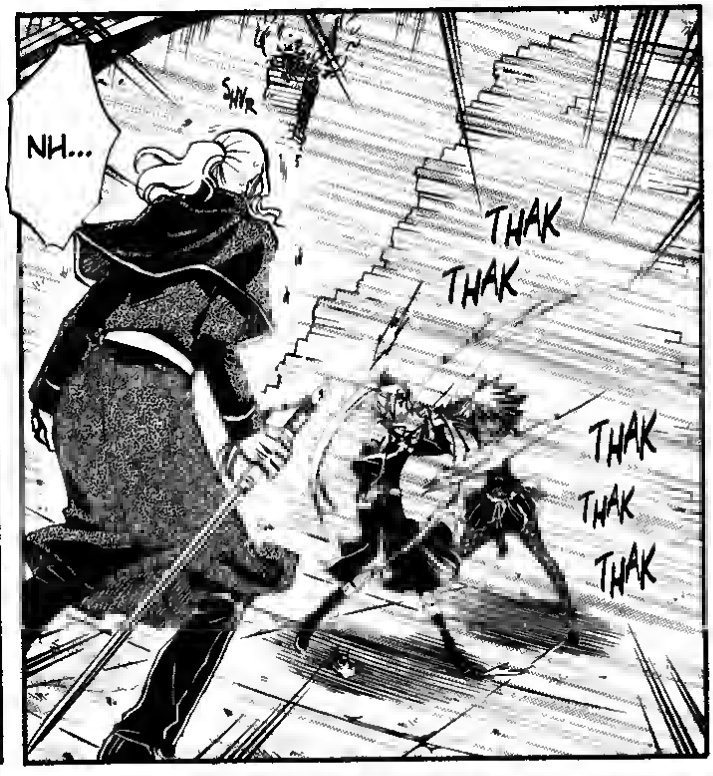
SMILE
SUMIR--
WHOOSH
!!

BECOME MY SHIELD!
WHOOSH
NGH ...!
WIND...
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
SUMIRE !!
WHARR
TP
TINK
DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT THAT CREEP'S TELLING YOU!
SWF
IT'S ALL LIES! HE'S JUST USING YOU!!


SUMIRE!!


SUMIRE! SNAP OUT OF IT!!

THAT SHADOW A MOMENT AGO...


NH...
SWR
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK

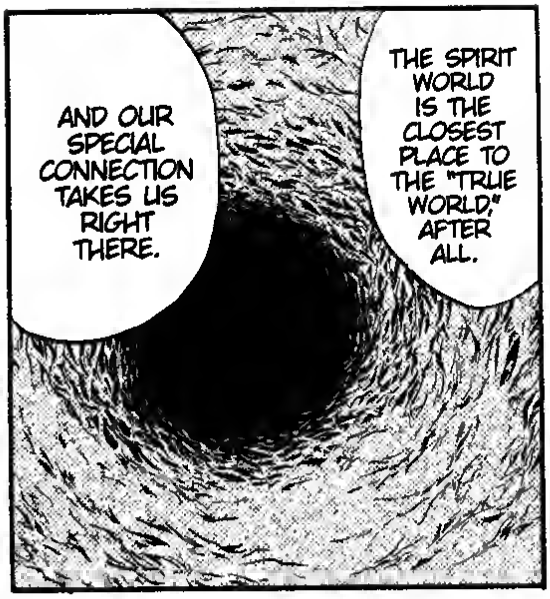
IF THAT IS WHAT I THINK IT IS...
THE ONE THAT CAME OUT OF LUCIF.
AION'S TRUE FORM...

THAT THEY WERE POSSESSED.
LUCIF, THAT BOY YOSHIKI... THEY WERE BOTH NAUGHT MORE THAN UNWITTING HOSTS FOR AION'S SPIRIT.
THEN THAT WOULD MEAN...

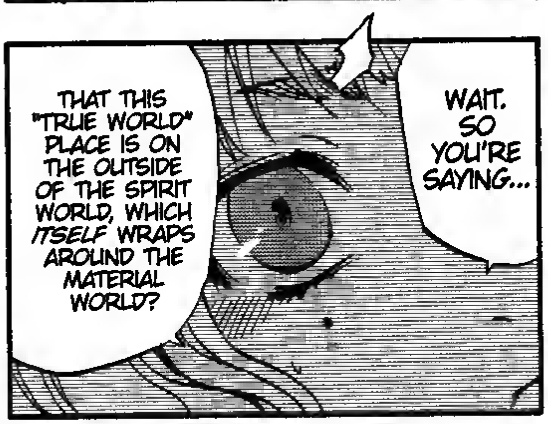
TWITCH
.....?
I KNOW JUST THE SPELL THAT SHOULD WORK!
SHING
AND IF THAT IS THE CASE...
GLOK
!
THAT EXORCISM SPELL'LL TAKE WAY TOO MUCH OUT OF YOU!!
OJISAMA, NO!
!
THAT SPELL ...!

LET'S HAVE YOU OUT OF THAT BODY, DEMON!
飛魔 (フロウ)!!
PURIFYING WIND, BLOW!!!
SMACK
AION-SAMA!!
?!
HEY, WHOA!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING MY BODY, SONOKA?!

TOTTER
.....?!
GYAHA!
FZAK
FWUD
SLUMP
HFF
HN...
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT I CAN MANAGE...
THAT SPELL ONCE MORE IN THIS CONDITION...
SO THAT UNDERLING THREW HERSELF IN THE WAY TO BLOCK IT...
DAMN...
HFF
.....?
ARGH! NOW WHAT DO I DO?!
AT THIS RATE, I'M GOING TO BE STUCK ON THE SIDE-LINES THE WHOLE--
LOLA?
OJI-SAMA!
YOU SHOULDN'T BOTHER.
NO ONE CAN HEAR US OUTSIDE OF THE KEKKAI.


AND OUR SPECIAL CONNECTION TAKES US RIGHT THERE.
THE SPIRIT WORLD IS THE CLOSEST PLACE TO THE "TRUE WORLD," AFTER ALL.

WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME? WE CAN GO, JUST THE TWO OF US...
?!
AND WATCH THE WORLD CHANGE FROM THE ONE PLACE WITH THE VERY BEST VIEW.


WAIT. SO YOU'RE SAYING...
THAT THIS "TRUE WORLD" PLACE IS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SPIRIT WORLD, WHICH *ITSELF* WRAPS AROUND THE MATERIAL WORLD?

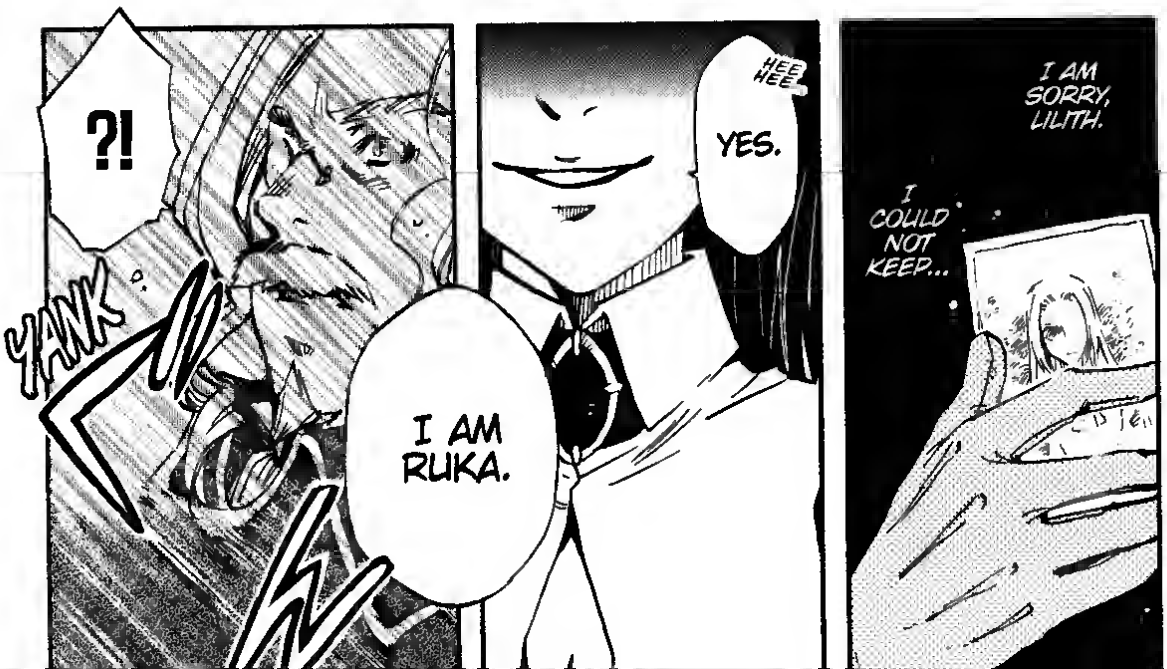
.....
?!
SO LET'S GO, LOLA.
LET'S BE THE FIRST ONES THERE.

YES.
ALL WE NEED DO IS OPEN THE GATE...
AND EVERYBODY TRAPPED HERE IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, OR EVEN IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, WILL ALL BE SET FREE.

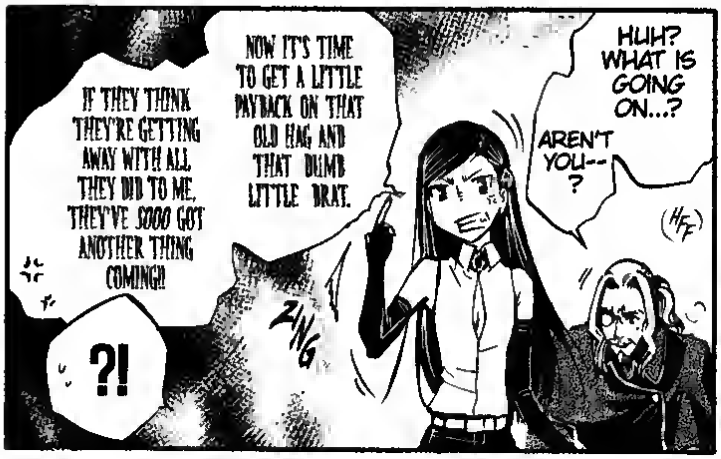
LAYLA...
OKAY.
DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE NOW, DO I?
LET'S GO.
IT'S THIS OR NOTHING...!!
LET'S GO TO THE SPIRIT WORLD... TOGETHER.
NH... HAAH
TOK
YOU...
JUMP
FP

WE MET BEFORE...
YOU'RE... RUKA.

SO THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS...!!


I AM SORRY, LILITH.
I COULD NOT KEEP...
HEE HEE...
YES.
I AM RUKA.
?!
YANK

WHAT ...?
I'M ME AGAIN!
THE ONE AND ONLY RUKA-SAMA!!
NOT THAT OLD HAG SONOKA!
SHAKE


IF THEY THINK THEY'RE GETTING AWAY WITH ALL THEY DID TO ME, THEY'VE SOOO GOT ANOTHER THING COMING!!
NOW IT'S TIME TO GET A LITTLE PAYBACK ON THAT OLD HAG AND THAT DUMB LITTLE BRAT.
?!
ZING
HUH? WHAT IS GOING ON...?
AREN'T YOU--?

I'VE NO CLUE WHAT THE HELL YOU DID, BUT IT GOT MY BODY BACK!
SO, YEAH. THANKS.
DOOD

WHY ARE YOU HOLDING BACK?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIGHT ME FOR REAL?
NGH ...!
LUCIA-SAN.
KANG

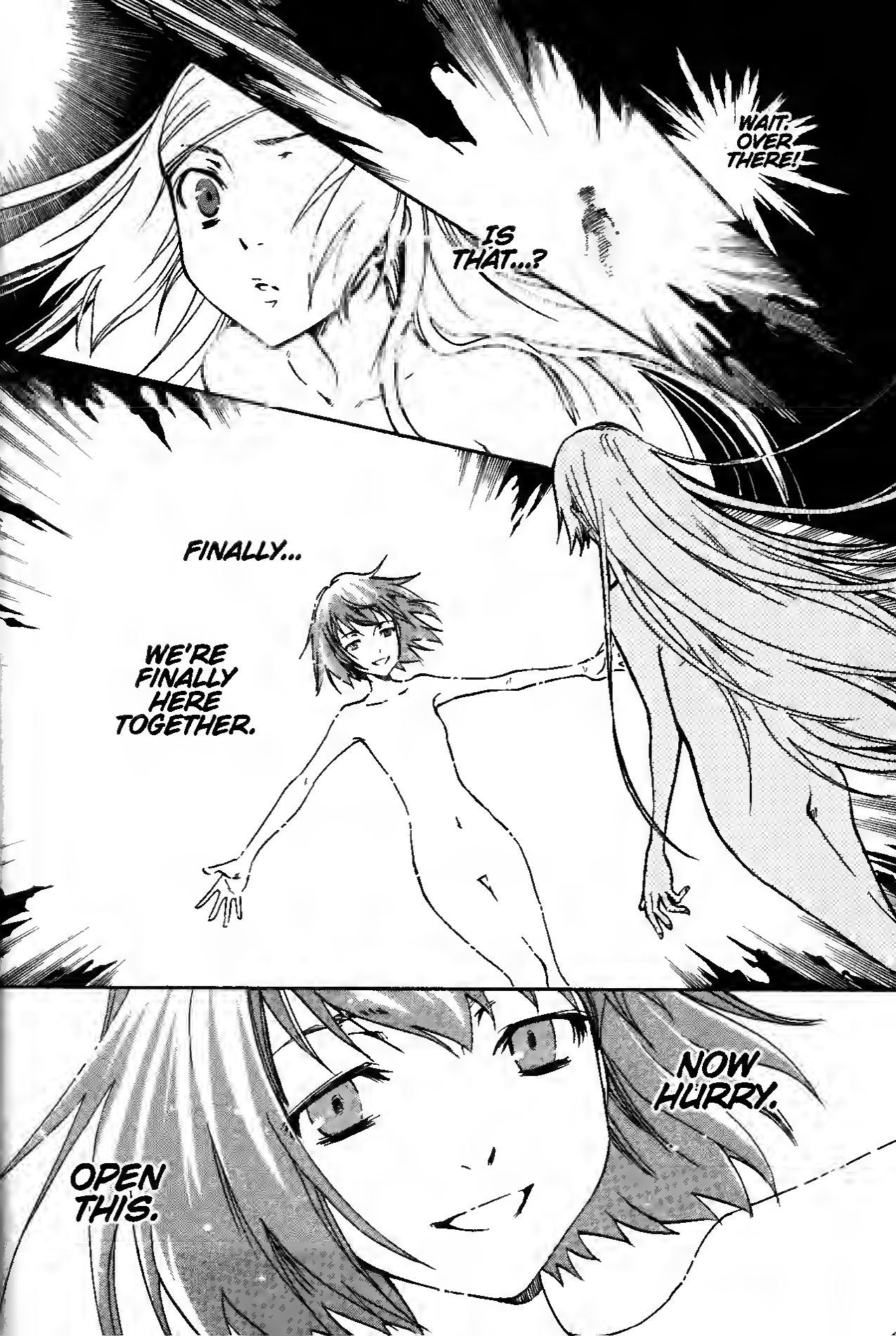
?!
LUCIA-SAN.
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE ONE FUNDAMENTAL MISCONCEP-TION...
SHE IS DOING THIS. ALL OF THIS. ALL OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE FEELING AT ALL.
IT SEEMS YOUR PRECIOUS LUCIA-SAN...
I'M SORRY, SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHAT ?!
AND FORCES US INTO THESE COLD, SEPARATE CONTAINERS CALLED BODIES.
IT'S THE FAULT OF THIS WORLD WHICH TRAPS US...
BUT... IT ISN'T HER FAULT.

SHAKE THE FOUNDA-TIONS OF THE GATE!!
HUH ...?!
.....
SO HURRY UP AND PUT AN END TO IT.
END THIS FALSE, INCOMPLETE WORLD OF MISERY.
KI
EARTH...

E-EARTH...
BE MY SHIELD!!
RUMBLE
SUMIRE! STOP THIS!
WHY ARE YOU--?!
BOUND
FIRE!
PWP

FWOOOO
STAIN THE GATE RED!!
NGH!! FIRE, HEED ME...!
BA-THUMP
BWOOF
WASH THE GATE CLEAN!
SPLOOSH
WIND!
FWSH
IT'S NOT WORKING ?!
HM ...?
PSHHH
WATER! 水よ
A-HA! SO THAT'S THE RITUAL TO OPEN THE GATE.
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS BREAK IT UP, RIGHT?
THE SIGILS ON LUCIA'S ARM...!!
HFF
BZAK

PUSH THE GATE OPEN !!
FOOM
AHHH !!
FLASH
RHMD
RHMD
RHMD
RHMD
RHMD
THE DARKNESS ...!!
THAT VISION! IS IT--?!


WAIT. OVER THERE!
IS THAT...?
FINALLY...
WE'RE FINALLY HERE TOGETHER.
NOW HURRY.
OPEN THIS.

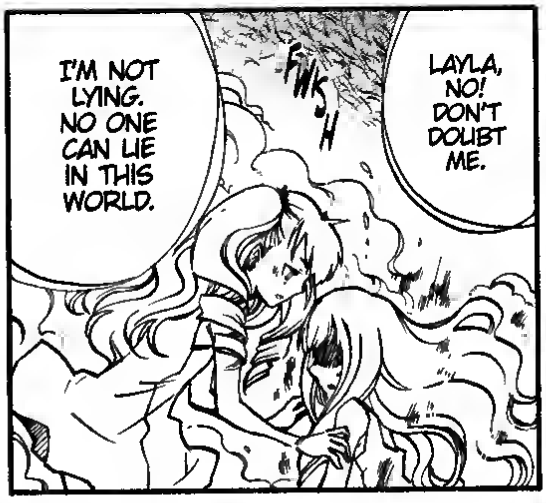
FLOOSH!
THIS...

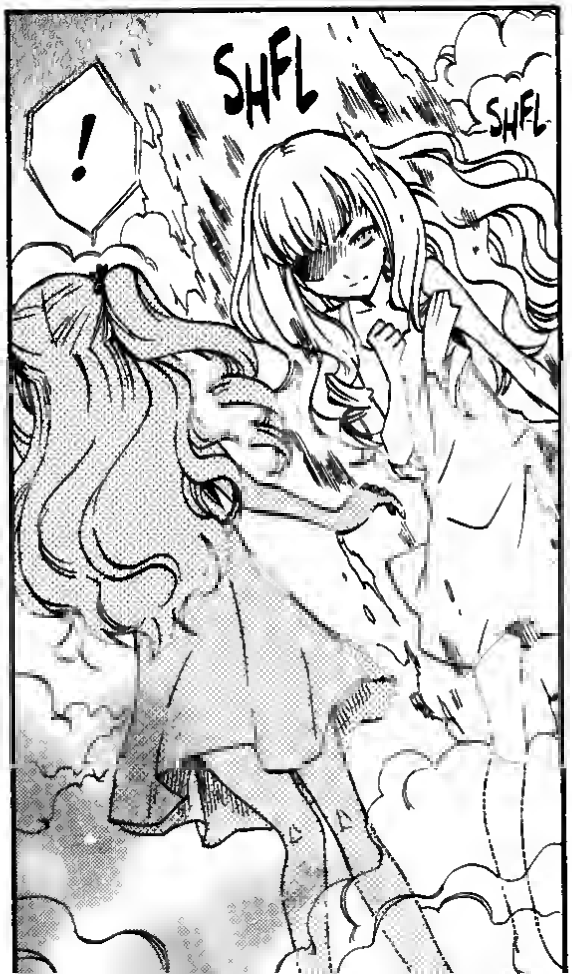
THIS IS THE LIGHT THAT WILL BURN AWAY ALL BOUNDARIES BETWEEN WORLDS.

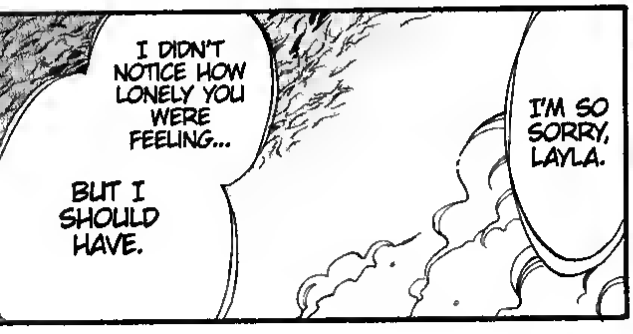
THIS IS THE LIGHT THAT WILL DESTROY THE OLD WORLD...
AND GIVE BIRTH TO MY NEW ONE!

IT IS NICE AND QUIET HERE, ISN'T IT, LOLA...?
YEAH, IT IS.
HEY, LAYLA ?
YOU SEE THAT?
...?
ANON
ANON

SUCH PRETTY COLORS...
THEY LOOK SO SOFT AND WARM.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?
THEY'RE MY FEELINGS.
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.


LAYLA, NO! DON'T DOUBT ME.
FWSH
I'M NOT LYING. NO ONE CAN LIE IN THIS WORLD.


SHFL
SHFL
!


I'M SO SORRY, LAYLA.
I DIDN'T NOTICE HOW LONELY YOU WERE FEELING...
BUT I SHOULD HAVE.

LOLA...
DO YOU... MEAN IT?
REALLY? YOU... DON'T HATE ME...
!
TWITCH
KRIK KRIK
WHAT'S THAT?!

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
THE GATE...
IT HAS FINALLY BEEN OPENED.
YES.
BEYOND IS THE "TRUE WORLD."
SHUDDER
.....?!
BUT...
THEN THAT MEANS --!!
WE HAVE TO STOP IT!
I MEAN, GETTING SUCKED INTO A PLACE LIKE THAT WOULD TOTALLY STINK!!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
NO!!
WITH THE GATE OPENED, IT WILL EXPAND...
AND SWALLOW BOTH THIS WORLD AND THE MATERIAL WORLD WHOLE.

WE'D ALL TURN INTO NOTHING AND I WOULDN'T EVER BE ABLE TO HUG YOU AGAIN!
OR LAUGH WITH YOU... OR ANYTHING AT ALL!!
OR CALL YOUR NAME...
IT'S TOO LATE...
CRIIIISH
LOLA...
I'M SORRY.

RRUUUMMMBLE
WE CAN'T GIVE UP YET!!
NO!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
SQUEEZE
FROOOO

FWOOSH
MAGNI-
FICENT!

FWSH
DISSOLVING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THIS CAGE AND THE TRUE WORLD...
GORGEOUS, HOW THE LIGHT OF THE GATE GROWS...
NOW, AS I AM TO BE A GOD...
AND BREATHE THE BREATH OF LIFE INTO MY NEW WORLD!
IT IS TIME TO RELEASE THESE FRAG-MENTS...
KIII

WORLD

CREATION!

NGH ...!
NOW, FINALLY...
EVERYTHING IS OVER.
ISN'T THIS WONDER-FUL?
SUMIRE!
SUMIRE, GIVE ME YOUR HAND!!
WE CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I WAS TRYING TO HELP...
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND YET?
LUCIA-SAN...

I WANTED TO HELP MAKE A WORLD...
WHERE EVERYONE I LOVED COULD LIVE...
WITHOUT EVER HAVING TO HURT EACH OTHER AGAIN.
SUMIRE...
I WAS JUST TRYING TO SAVE THEM.
SAVE THEM FROM THIS CRUEL, MISERABLE WORLD.

"CRUEL, MISERABLE WORLD"...
HUH?
YEAH...
THAT'S THE WAY I USED TO SEE IT TOO.
BUT, Y'KNOW?
THAT'S NOT HOW I THINK ANYMORE.
I KNOW BETTER NOW, BECAUSE I MET YOU.
SURE, THIS WORLD HAS KNOCKED ME AROUND A LOT...
BUT IT'S ALSO THE WORLD WHERE I MET YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO ERASE THAT.
IT'S THE WORLD WHERE WE LIVED TOGETHER, LOVED EACH OTHER...
AND FOUGHT BY EACH OTHER'S SIDE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THAT BEFORE...
BUT NOW... NOW I CAN LOOK THIS WORLD RIGHT IN THE FACE AND ACCEPT IT. ALL OF IT.

I MEAN, THIS IS THE WORLD THAT LET YOU MEET ALL YOUR FRIENDS... MEET *HIM*.
I BET THE SAME GOES FOR YOU TOO, SUMIRE.
RIGHT...?
YOU *CAN'T* THINK THE WHOLE ENTIRE THING IS A MISERABLE PLACE...
I--
LUCIA-SAN, I...
FWOOOOOOO

OH, PLEASE HELP ME!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SUMIRE.
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.
FWOOOOO

HUH ...?
AAH!!!
NO!
THAT'S NOT IT!
ALL I WANTED WAS--!!
HAAH
NO ...!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED!
HAAH

SMACK
DON'T LOOK AWAY...
OR YOU'LL JUST END UP REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKES.
SURE, WE MAY BE DISEM-BODIED...
BUT WE'VE STILL GOT OUR POWERS. WE CAN STILL MOVE AROUND JUST FINE.
OH, DON'T WORRY.
THAT'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
LUCIA-SAN...
TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT THAT, SUMIRE.
FUSH
FUSH
FUSH
FUSH

READY, SUMIRE?
YEAH!!

GOOD! NOW LET'S GO PUT A STOP TO AION, ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
AOP!

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

GOOD! NOW LET'S GO PUT A STOP TO AION, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
YEAH!!
HEE HEE
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK...
WHSH
DELAY YOU FOR JUST A FEW MOMENTS AND AION-SAMA'S WORLD WILL BE COM--
OH, I DON'T THINK SO!
SO YOU'RE STILL HANGING ON AS A SPIRIT, HUH?
STUBBORN OLD HAG, AREN'T YA?
NUH-UH!
RUKA, DARLING ...
MOVE.
I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GET IT!
IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU WANT, BITCH...

rooooooo
ALL THOSE LIGHTS... THEY'RE FRAGMENTS ?!
OJI-SAMA!
LOLA!
AND LAYLA, TOO, I SEE.
YOU'RE TRANS-PARENT!
WHAT?
WE LEFT OUR BODIES UP THERE IN THE MATERIAL WORLD.
YEP! WE'RE JUST SPIRITS RIGHT NOW.
THEN...
MATERIAL WORLD
SPIRIT WORLD
TRUE WORLD
THAT MEANS THIS PLACE IS NEITHER THE MATERIAL WORLD, NOR THE SPIRIT WORLD...
NOT EVEN THE UNSTABLE "TRUE WORLD." IT'S ALL OF THEM...

FWOOOOOO
THE RIFT WHERE THREE WORLDS ARE COLLIDING!
AT THIS RATE...
IT'LL SWALLOW UP THE OTHER TWO WORLDS IN NO TIME.
AION IS STILL RELEASING FRAGMENTS.
AND THEY'RE GIVING FORM TO THE TRUE WORLD.
DON'T WORRY...
WE'LL STOP HIM.

Piece 37
WISHES. GRANTED.
AION, THIS ENDS NOW!!

SWOOSH
WIND! BECOME MY WINGS !!
WAAH
WHA--?!
?!
LUCIA! SUMIRE!!
W-
WIND...
I...
I CAN'T ...

HANG IN THERE!!
FP
!!
YOU'RE ALL HERE!!
AH, YOU GUYS!
VNNNN
THIS PLACE IS JUST A TEEEEENY BIT UNSTABLE...
SO JUST SIT BACK AND LET THE EXPERTS GUIDE THE WAY!
OH YEAH!

SWOOOO
WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
JUST BEYOND US IS...
!!
HM?
WHA ?!
?!
BZAK
BZAK
BZAK

SUMIRE-KUN...!
LUCIA...
RGH...
IT'S NO GOOD!
IT LOOKS LIKE WHAT'S AHEAD IS STILL SO INCOMPLETE THAT ONLY THE GATE AND KEY CAN GO IN.
BZZK
WE'LL BE FINE, NAHASHI.
YEAH. WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE TOO LONG.
IS THIS NOT A *BEAUTIFUL* NEW WORLD? AND YOU TWO SHALL BE ITS GOD-DESSES!
ARE YOU NOT HAPPY?
WELL, GIRLS?
SWOOOO

SWOOOO
LISTEN, AION.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF STUFF YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH OR WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS...
SUMIRE?
I'M OKAY...
.....
BUT IT STOPS HERE!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU BUILD THIS WORLD AT THE EXPENSE OF OURS!!
IT ENDS NOW!
RIGHT!!
HEED US...
火よ FIRE!
水よ WATER!
風よ WIND!
土よ—— EARTH!

PLEASE ...
LEND US-- NO, LEND OUR WORLD...
YOUR STRENGTH !!
!!
THE FRAG-MENTS...!
WAVER
THEY'RE ALL FLOWING BACK TO SUMIRE AND LUCIA!!
NNNGH...!

I WILL HAVE IT!!
THIS WORLD IS MINE!
MEDDLING INSECTS!
KUUUUN
I WILL NOT BE DENIED!!!
!!
BA-THUMP
HATE.
UNH ...?!
NGH ...!!
WHOOSH

THIS WORLD.
ABHOR.
DESPISE.
I HATE ALL OF IT!!
EVERY-THING.
SWOOSH
SPITEFUL, EVIL WORLD.
NO ...!!
ST...
STOP ...!!
NGK ...!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
?!
LUCIA! SUMIRE!!
WOO!
WHY MUST YOU DENY MY VERY EXISTENCE ?!
HATE YOU ALL.
IS THAT WHY YOU TURN AWAY FROM ME?
JUST BECAUSE I HAVE POWERS YOU DO NOT...?
HATE.
WHY MUST YOU SHUN ME?

THIS PAIN...
THIS HATRED ...
FROOOO
SURELY YOU TWO UNDER-STAND.
NNH!
SQUEEZE
JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT ...
EVERY-ONE DENIES YOU. SPURNS YOU. FEARS YOU.
HOW CAN YOU NOT DESPISE SUCH A PETTY WORLD?
FROOSH
HYAH!!
HUFF
YOU OKAY, SUMIRE?
Y-YEAH... I'M FINE.
HMPH.
SORRY, AION.
BUT WE AREN'T LIKE YOU.

WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN US.
THAT'S ALL.
HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT?
REALLY NOW...
BUT THAT ONE DIFFERENCE...
LUCIA...
SURE, IT MAY SEEM TINY, BUT IN THE END, IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE.
IS ENOUGH TO MAKE WHAT WAS ONCE A BLEAK WORLD REALLY SHINE.

NO...
SILENCE !!
SUMIRE~! LUCIA~! LOOK BEHIND HIM! HE'S GOT A--!
WE KNOW !!
LOOK THERE! BEHIND HIM!
!
THERE'S ANOTHER SPIRIT THERE.
THEY'RE MOSTLY MERGED, BUT YEAH, I SEE.
.....
AND HE'S HURTING...
IT'S YOSHIKI-SAN. HE'S STILL TRAPPED INSIDE...
I CAN SEE HIM TOO...
YEAH.
ALL YOU REALLY NEED...
IS A--
SILENCE!
ISN'T A BIG, EMPTY WORLD LIKE THIS.
HEY, AION.
I THINK I UNDER-STAND NOW.
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT... REALLY NEED...

UFF...
RK...!
EVEN YOU BETRAY ME!
SWOOOO
EVEN YOU DENY ME!!
BE-TRAY-ER!!
THAT DOES IT! STOP BEING SUCH A...
SPOILED BRAT!!
WOOSH
AAH AAAAARGH!!
KIIIIN
PLINK
YOSHIKI-SAN...
I KNOW IT MUST BE REALLY HARD ON YOU...

BUT HOLD ON.
I'LL BE THERE TO SAVE YOU IN JUST A MOMENT.
.....
PLINK
NO ...
STOP ...
PLINK PLINK
ALL RIGHT...
IT'S TIME TO END THIS!!
SWOOO

AION, RETURN TO THE LIGHT!!!

FLASH
AHH!
AGH...
AARRGGHHH!!!

FWISH
AAAH
GAAAAHHHH!!
SUMIRE_
CHAN ...?

DARK.
SO DARK...
CANNOT... SEE...
FSHHHH
.....?
CALM... PEACEFUL...
IN THE END, ALL YOU REALLY NEEDED WAS...
I FEEL ...
WHAT IS THIS ...?
SEE?

WARMTH.
FP
THAT'S ALL.

FSH
.....
IT'S... OVER?
HN ...?!
RUMBLE
!!!
THRUMMM

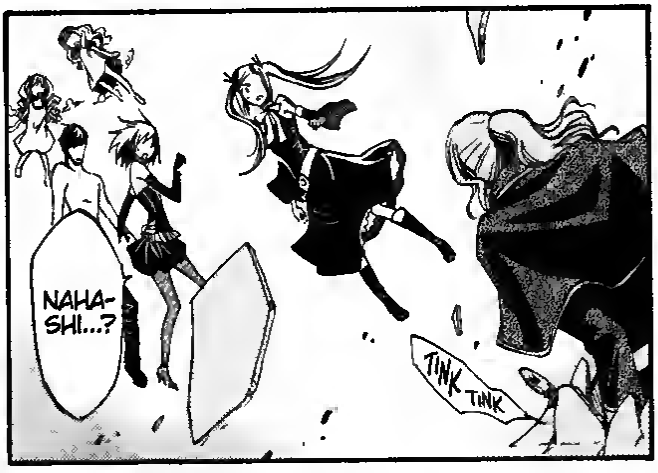
RR
TINK
TINK
SWSH
SWSH
RR
.....!?
RMBLE
TINK
SWSH
ACK!!
THEN WE BETTER SCRAM OR WE'LL GET TRAPPED HERE!
LUCIA! SUMIRE! THIS WAY!! HURRY!!
!!
THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE WORLDS ARE BEGINNING TO REFORM!
RRR
SWISH
C'MON! HURRY!!
?!
SWSH
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A DASH FOR THE MATERIAL WORLD!!
RRR
RMMBLE

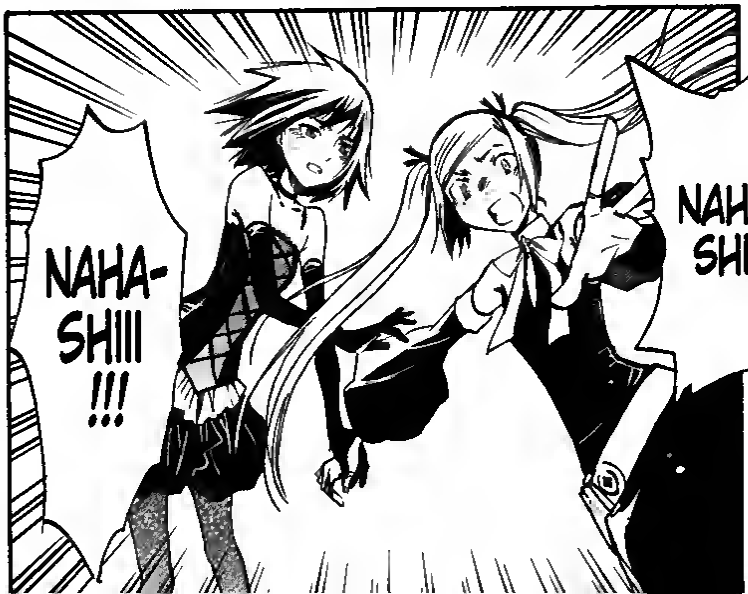
AION-SAMA!
PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO ACCOM-PANY YOU!!
RR
RRR
TCH!
GAWD, WHAT AN IDIOT...
STING STING
CHK
WHAT WAS THAT...?
RRR
Y'KNOW, MAYBE AION JUST DIDN'T REALIZE...
THAT HE WASN'T REALLY ALL ALONE AFTER ALL.
C'MON, YOU TWO!!
RMMBLE
QUIT FLOATING AROUND! WE NEED TO HURRY!!
!
RIGHT!
?!

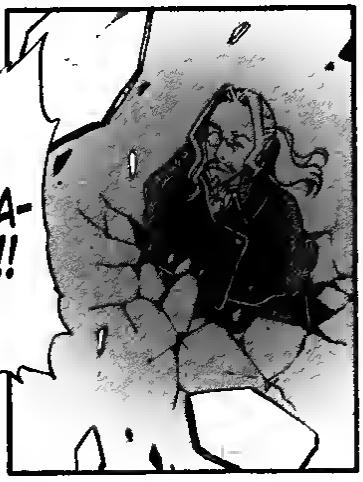
HOLY CRAP, THAT'S CLOSING FAST!!
TINK TINK
C'MON! IF WE CAN JUST MAKE IT PAST THAT LAST LAYER ...!!
RG!!!
CHINK
!!
LUCIA-SAN!
?!
JUST GO! HURRY!!
FOOM
!!
NA-HASHI ...
WHAT ARE YOU --?!
!
TINK
TINKLE
PLEASE ...
TINK TINK TINK
THE LAST LAYER IS RIGHT UP THERE!

GO, MY DARLING.
RETURN TO THE TRUE LIGHT.

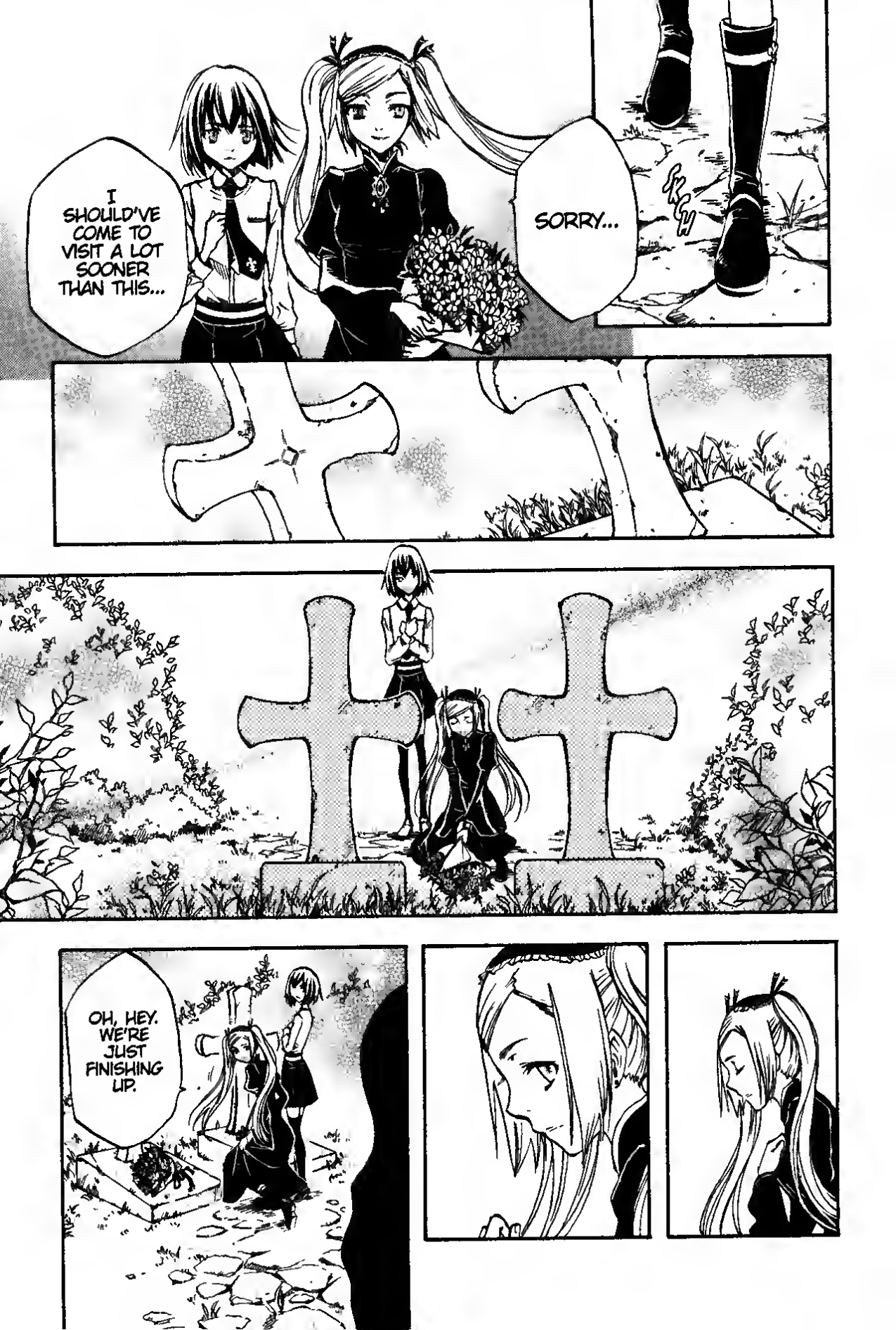
NO ...!
GRAB
LUCIA-SAN!


NAHA-SHI...?
TINK-TINK


NAHA-SHIII !!!


NAHA-SHI!!

NAHASHIIIIIII!!!
FWISH


I SHOULD'VE COME TO VISIT A LOT SOONER THAN THIS...
SORRY...
OH, HEY. WE'RE JUST FINISHING UP.

AH, RIGHT ON TIME THEN.
LET'S ALL HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER !!
I MADE CHOCOLATE SAND-WICHES AND CHOCOLATE COOKIES! ♥
AND WE DISCOVERED A VERY NICE SPOT TOO!
SHEESH
CHOCO-LATE AGAIN, HUH?
LOLA-CHAN AND LAYLA-CHAN SURE SEEM HAPPY.
I'M REALLY GLAD THEY'RE OKAY.
THIS WAY!
YEAH. I WAS KINDA WORRIED ABOUT THEM AT FIRST TOO.
BUT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE DONE WELL DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
OH HEY
YOU TWO HAVE GROWN, HAVEN'T YOU?
HEE HEE!
YEAH, CAN'T YOU TELL?
SO BEAUTI-FUL...
YOUR HOMETOWN IS A REALLY LOVELY PLACE, LUCIA-SAN.
YEAH...
NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE WHY I'D COME SEE IT, THOUGH.

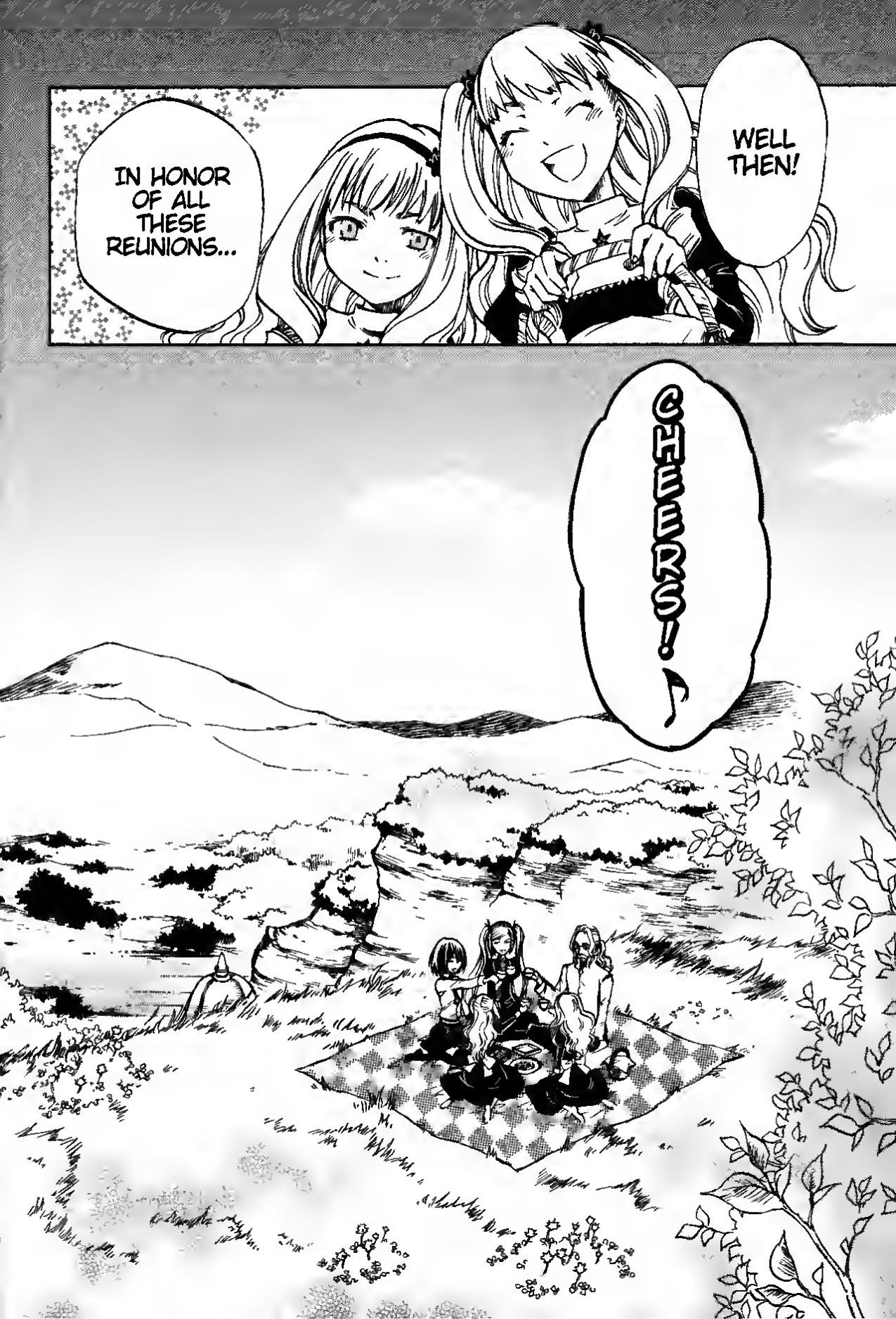
LUCIA-SAN...
IT'S BACK IN HERE!!
WE REALLY WENT THROUGH A LOT, DIDN'T WE?
LOOKING BACK...
FWSH
?
A-HA! WE'RE HERE!
WEE HEE HEE...
UH, LOLA?
THERE'S BARELY A TRAIL HERE.
JUST TRUST ME! ♪
.....
ガサガサ
RSTL
PULL

HI THERE...
IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME, HASN'T IT?

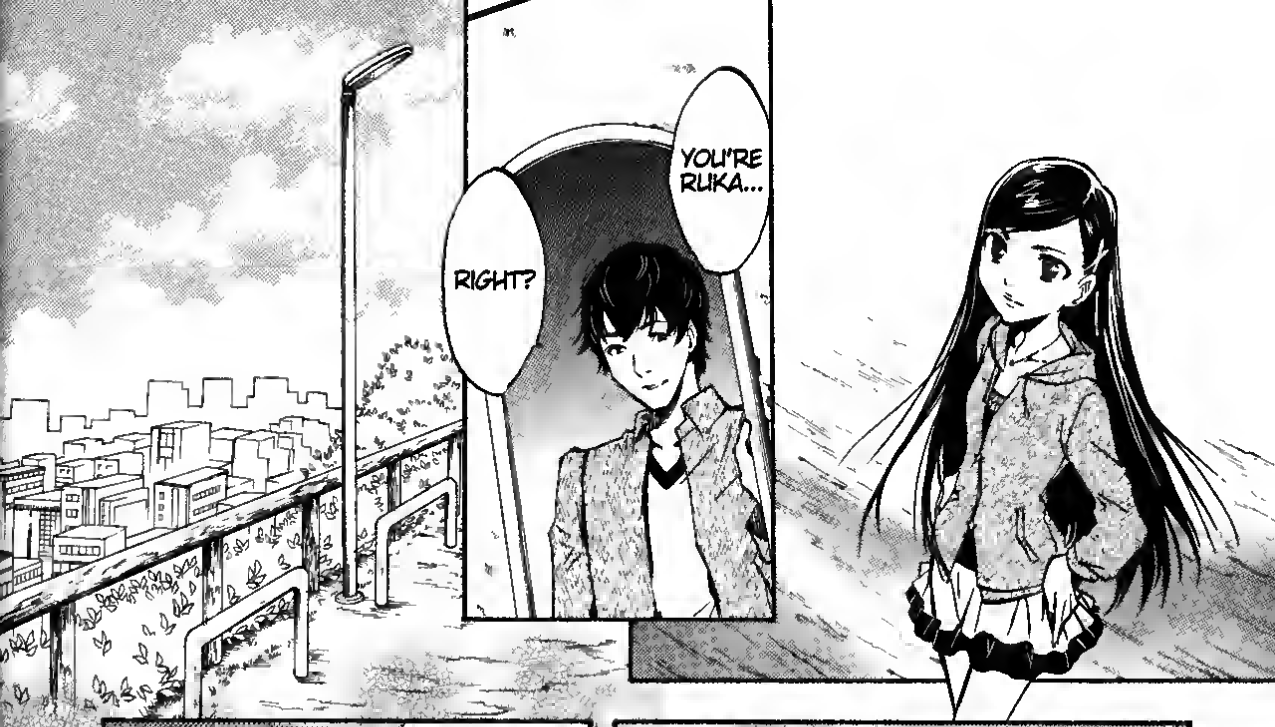
NAHASHI ...!!
YOU...
YOU IDIOT !!
WHA ?!
LUCIA, I--
HUG
IDIOT!
NA-
TEAR

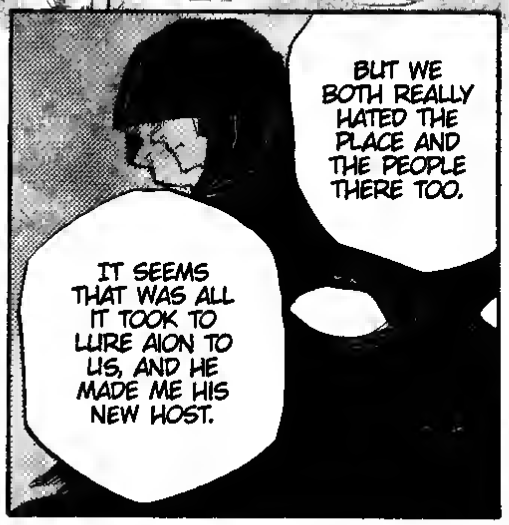
MY APOLOGIES FOR WORRYING YOU SO.
BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM QUITE FINE NOW.
WHEN WE HEARD THERE WAS NO TELLING WHEN, OR EVEN IF YOU WOULD WAKE UP AGAIN...
I'M SORRY, LUCIA.
I ONLY AWOKE BUT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
NAHASHI-SAN! OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE BETTER?!!
WAP
WAP
WAP
WAP
AND IT ALL...
IS THANKS TO MY SHISHO...
FWISH
THE LAST LITTLE BIT OF POWER HE HAD LEFT.
THOUGH IT COST HIM...
AND PULLED OJISAMA BACK OUT AGAIN.
YEAH. IT WAS GRANDPA WHO WENT INTO THE SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS...

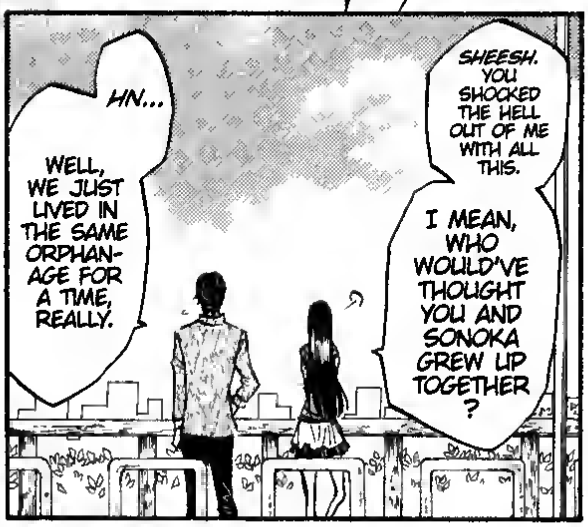
AHEM
UM ...
A- ANYWAY...
THERE'S JUST ONE THING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
?
WELCOME HOME...
FATHER.
ERM ...?


WELL THEN!
IN HONOR OF ALL THESE REUNIONS...
CHEERS!

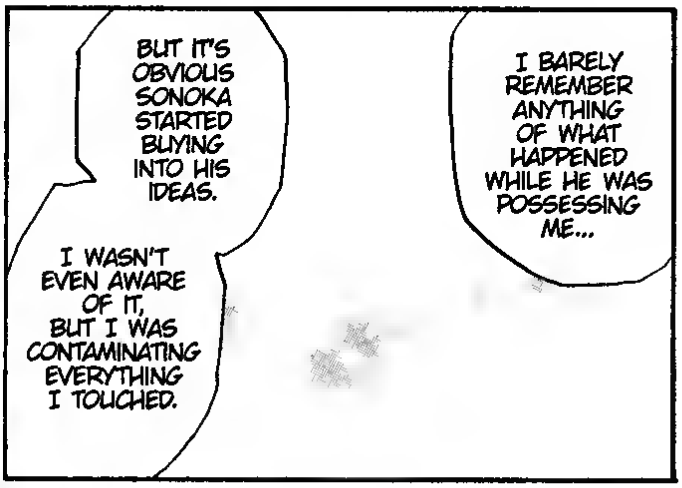
TOK
HI THERE.


YOU'RE RUKA...
RIGHT?


BUT WE BOTH REALLY HATED THE PLACE AND THE PEOPLE THERE TOO.
IT SEEMS THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO LURE AION TO US, AND HE MADE ME HIS NEW HOST.


HM...
WELL, WE JUST LIVED IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE FOR A TIME, REALLY.
SHEESH. YOU SHOCKED THE HELL OUT OF ME WITH ALL THIS.
I MEAN, WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU AND SONOKA GREW UP TOGETHER?

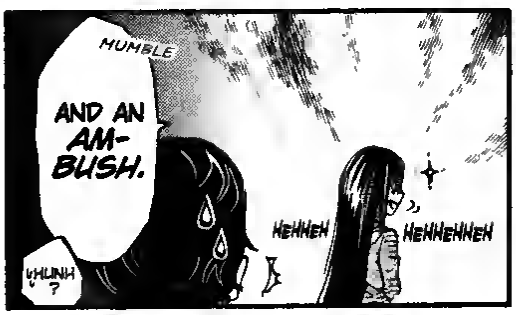
.....
STILL...

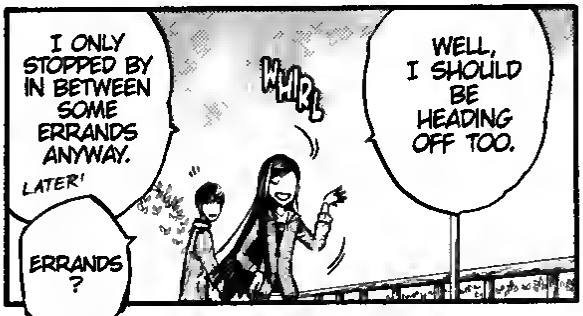

BUT IT'S OBVIOUS SONOKA STARTED BUYING INTO HIS IDEAS.
I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF IT, BUT I WAS CONTAMINATING EVERYTHING I TOUCHED.
I BARELY REMEMBER ANYTHING OF WHAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS POSSESSING ME...

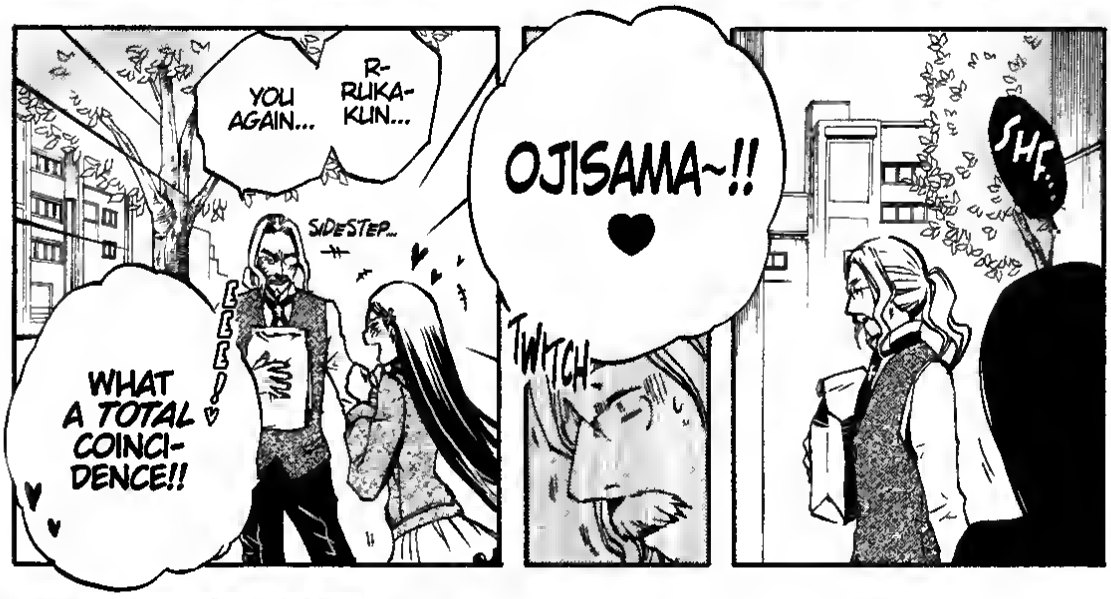
DESPITE WHAT HAP-PENED...
DESPITE ME DOING SOMETHING THAT COULD HAVE DESTROYED EVERYTHING...
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO ACCEPT ME... FORGIVE ME...
SO I NEED TO STEP UP.
I CAN'T BE WEAK ANYMORE.

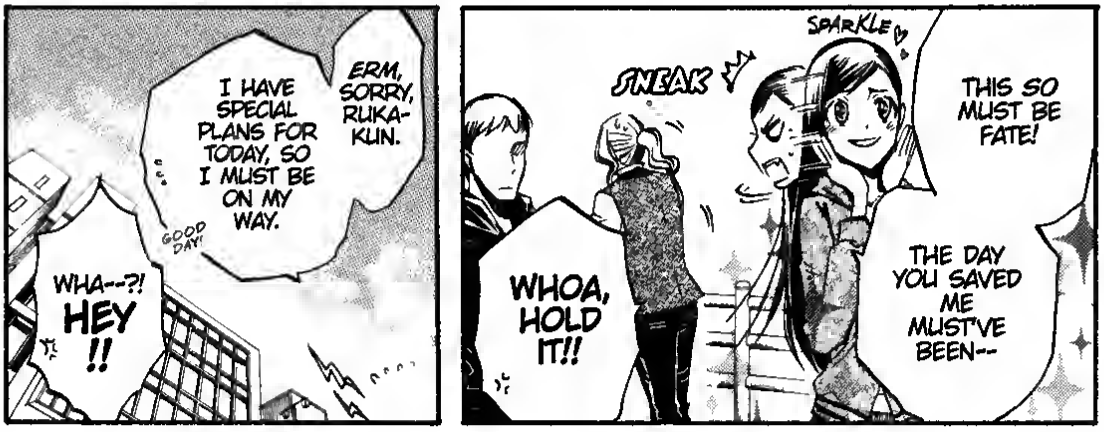
OOPS! I'M ALMOST OUT OF TIME.
I NEED TO GET READY FOR TONIGHT'S PARTY.
HAVE TO GO PICK UP SOME FLOWERS
AAH...

I WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN SUPPORT HER...
AND EVERYONE AROUND HER.

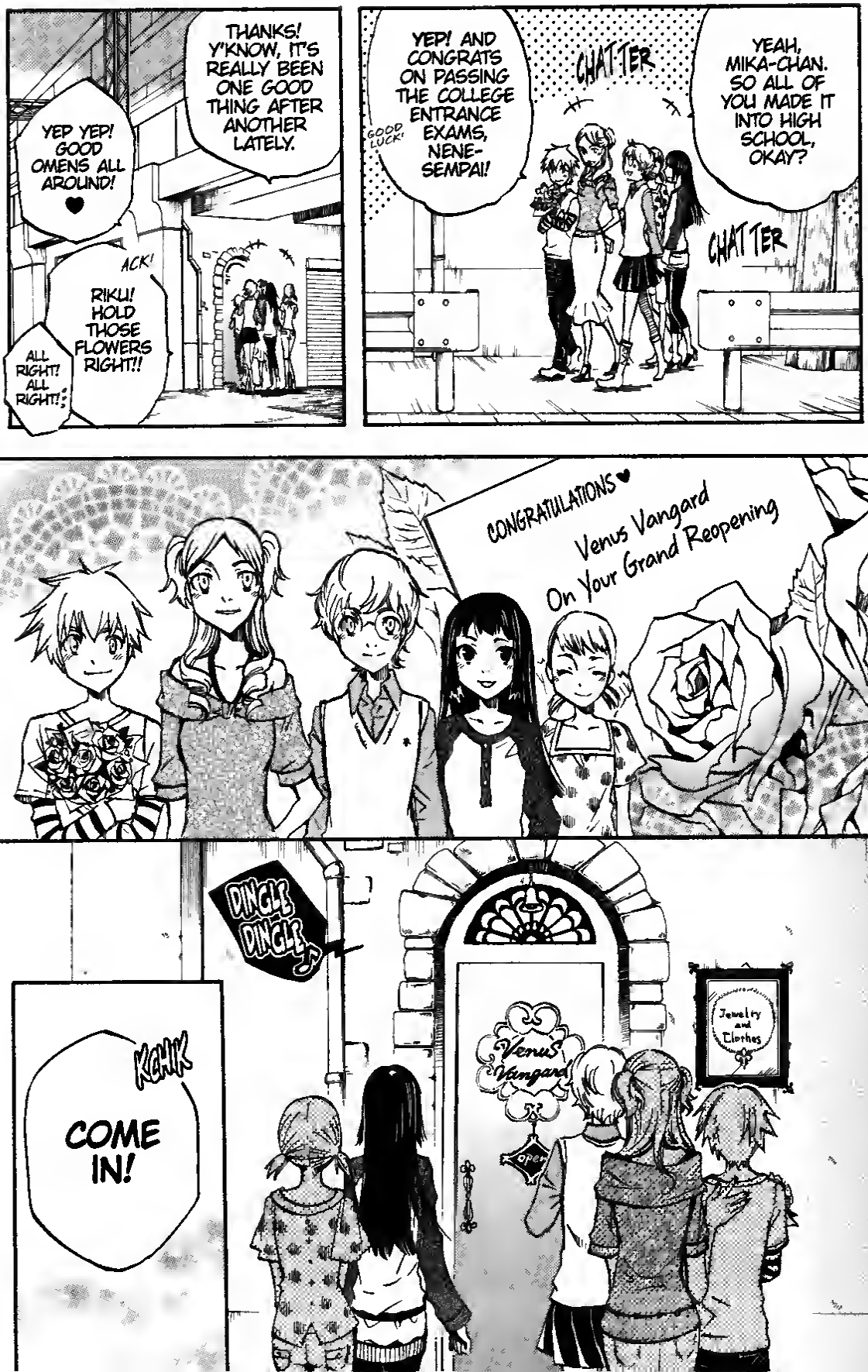

MUMBLE
AND AN AM-BUSH.
UHUHH ?
HEHHEH
HEHHEHHEH


WELL, I SHOULD BE HEADING OFF TOO.
I ONLY STOPPED BY IN BETWEEN SOME ERRANDS ANYWAY.
LATER!
ERRANDS ?


YOU AGAIN...
R-RUKA-KLIN...
SIDESTEP...
EEE!
WHAT A TOTAL COINCI-DENCE!!
OJISAMA~!!
TWITCH
SHF...


ERM, SORRY, RUKA-KLIN.
I HAVE SPECIAL PLANS FOR TODAY, SO I MUST BE ON MY WAY.
GOOD DAY!
WHA--?! HEY !!
SPARKLE
SNEAK
THIS SO MUST BE FATE!
THE DAY YOU SAVED ME MUST'VE BEEN--
WHOA, HOLD IT!!

SO THE DAY'S FINALLY COME, HUH?


THANKS! Y'KNOW, IT'S REALLY BEEN ONE GOOD THING AFTER ANOTHER LATELY.
YEP YEP! GOOD OMENS ALL AROUND!
ACK!
RIKU! HOLD THOSE FLOWERS RIGHT!!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!;
CHATTER
YEP! AND CONGRATS ON PASSING THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS, NENE-SEMPAI!
GOOD LUCK!
YEAH, MIKA-CHAN. SO ALL OF YOU MADE IT INTO HIGH SCHOOL, OKAY?
CHATTER
CONGRATULATIONS♥
Venus Vangard
On Your Grand Reopening
DINGLE DINGLE♪
KCHK
COME IN!
Venus Vangard
Open
Jewelry and Clothes

WELCOME TO VENUS VANGARD!

PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT!
Fin.

POSTSCRIPT

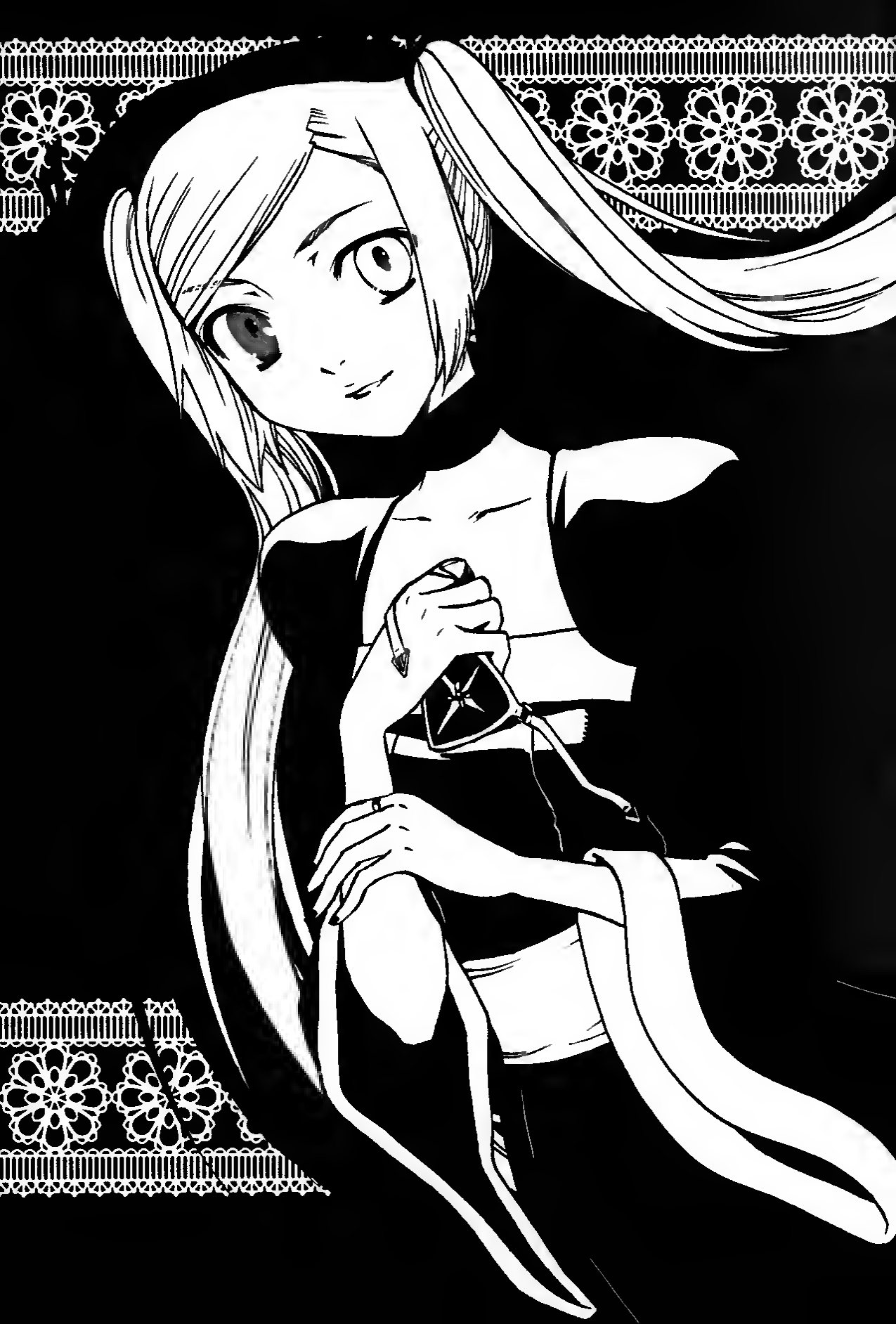
HELLO, EVERYONE. SUZUMI HERE. SO THE FINAL VOLUME OF V.V.V., VOLUME 8, HAS ARRIVED AT LAST. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO STAYED WITH US FOR THE RIDE! TO MY SUPERVISOR TAKAJIMA-SAMA, DESIGNER SEKI-SAMA, MY ASSISTANTS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO LENT ME A HAND, IT WAS ONLY BY YOUR HELP THAT I MADE IT THIS FAR. I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT 3 YEARS SINCE I BEGAN THIS SERIES, AND NOW IT'S COME TIME TO DRAW LUCIA AND HER FRIENDS FOR THE LAST TIME. I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT FEELS STRANGE. MAYBE BY THE TIME THIS VOLUME IS PUBLISHED, THE IDEA THAT IT'S *REALLY OVER* WILL HAVE ACTUALLY SUNK IN. RIGHT NOW, ON ONE HAND, I'M GLAD TO HAVE WRAPPED IT ALL UP SAFELY, BUT ON THE OTHER, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE LONELY. STILL, I CAN'T WALLOW IN LONELINESS LIKE HOW LUCIA AND CREW DID...

I NEED TO LOOK AHEAD AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE! I'M HOPING THAT, ALONG MY PATH, WE MIGHT ALL MEET AGAIN! UNTIL NEXT TIME!!

2008.9 鷲見 敦

ATSUSHI SUZUMI



Venus versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

VOLUME 8

story & art by Atsushi Suzumi

STAFF CREDITS

translation	Adrienne Beck
adaptation	Janet Houck
cover design	Nicky Lim
retouch & lettering	Roland Amago
layout	Bambi Eloriaga-Amago
copy editor	Shanti Whitesides
editor	Adam Arnold
publisher	Jason DeAngelis
	Seven Seas Entertainment

VENUS VERSUS VIRUS VOL. 8
© ATSUSHI SUZUMI 2008
First published in 2008 by Media Works Inc., Tokyo, Japan.
English translation rights arranged with ASCII MEDIA WORKS Inc.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

Visit us online at www.gomanga.com

ISBN: 978-1-934876-71-8

Printed in Canada

First printing March 2010

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス